

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strathclyde council may be scrapped

A complete reorganisation of local government in Scotland, which involves scrapping Britain's largest council, Strathclyde, and creating a single tier of power, was proposed by the government yesterday (Ray Clancy writes). Strathclyde, which provides services for half the Scottish population, is the prime target in a consultation document launched by Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who also published a report on the financial implications.

Mr Lang told a press conference in Glasgow that he was confident that the predictions in the Touche Ross report would result in savings of up to £200 million a year, which would quickly offset the transitional costs. The consultation document sets out four possible new structures to replace the present two-tier system of nine regional councils, 53 districts and three island councils set up in 1975.

The models for discussion set out what would happen under a system of 15, 24, 35 and 51 authorities but Mr Lang emphasised that he was open to other proposals. "I want to hear from the ordinary people of Scotland on how they want their country to be run at a local level," he said, adding that a £25,000 video on local government reorganisation produced by the Scottish Office is to be widely distributed free of charge. He envisaged community groups watching the video and then sending in their views by January 1994.

Sentence challenged

The five-year sentence on a former Ulster Defence Regiment woman soldier who killed her army officer lover's wife should be doubled, the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal was told yesterday. If Susan Christie's sentence for the manslaughter of Penny McAllister could not be 10 years then it should be close to it, said Brian Kerr QC, representing the Attorney General's office. Christie, 24, was jailed in June after being found guilty of killing Mrs McAllister by cutting her throat as the two women strolled through a forest in Co Down. The case follows the Attorney General's decision to ask for a review because Christie's sentence was considered "unduly lenient".

Marine dies from drink

A Royal Marine died after a heavy drinking session to celebrate winning his green beret, an inquest in Exmouth, Devon, heard yesterday. Marine Ian Mallard, 17, eventually fell off his stool after drinking lager, whisky and vodka during the session at a village pub in Woodbury with 40 recruits and staff members from the Commando training centre at Lympstone. Marine Mallard's blood alcohol level was almost five times the legal limit for driving, pathologist Dr Roderick Simpson told the inquest. The young marine, from Aragon Green, Blean, Kent, received treatment at the marine camp but died in hospital in Exeter from inhaling his own vomit and acute alcohol poisoning.

Councils fight for status

Councils representing two of the most economically deprived areas in Britain have commissioned a firm of international management consultants to combat any move by the government to deprive them of assisted area status. Dwyfor and Meirionnydd district councils, in northwest Wales, who cover some of the most beautiful and sparsely populated parts of Britain, called in Touche Ross after strong government hints that, once a current review has been completed, fewer parts of Britain will qualify for special assistance. Touche Ross say that unless the Pwllheli and Portmadoc-Ffestiniog areas receive full development area status, existing levels of poverty and work will worsen.

Couples seek advice

The number of couples seeking help to save their relationships has increased by 50 per cent over the past five years, with the recession being blamed for many break-ups. Around 70,000 new cases sought help from Relate last year and nearly 400,000 interviews were carried out with people going through marriage or relationship problems. Unemployment, redundancy, mortgage arrears and mounting debts are having devastating effects on family life, Relate says in its annual review, published today. Couples under such stresses are more likely to argue, blame each other and drink too much, with an increase in domestic violence as a result. Many become suicidal, the report adds.

Ronson wins apology

Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, yesterday accepted a public apology in settlement of his libel action over a press release and magazine article alleging that his charitable trusts gave nothing to charity until his arrest in connection with the Guinness affair. Brian Heyworth, his solicitor, told Mr Justice Drake in the High Court that a press release issued in September to several national newspapers by The National Magazine Company, publisher of *Esquire* magazine, and an article in this month's issue, contained "seriously defamatory" statements. Lawrence Abramson, for the publisher, said that the allegations were regretted. The company agreed to pay Mr Ronson's costs.

Sneer tactics leave Lamont lost for words

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Poor Mr Lamont. In a revealing moment at the Treasury select committee interrogation yesterday, someone quoted his press critics at him. Lamont's candour got the better of his grammar. "They seem," he said bitterly, "to be extremely out to create a bit of problems here and there."

You saw his point. We admired him simply for getting there. These days, if Norman Lamont asks a taxi driver to take him to Victoria station, the cabbie will probably make an intelligent guess and assume he means Waterloo. Picture breakfast at the Lamonts'...

"Shredded Wheat, Norman?" "Yes please, dear," Mrs Lamont reaches for the Coco Pops.

"And after your cereal?" "Sausages, please, Rosemary."

"Are you sure? Very well. Egg on toast coming up. Do you think it will rain today?"

"Absolutely not, Rosemary. Clear and sunny all day. Never been more certain of anything in my life."

"Your mackintosh is behind the door, and the umbrella's in the hall."

Who would be Chancellor of the Exchequer? Yesterday, milkmen rose early to sell an honest pint and collect a cheery "Good morning" along the way. Widge manufacturers were proudly inspecting their widges, doctors were tending to the living and vicars praying for the dead. Norman Lamont, meanwhile, rose and was taken to a place where he was asked by Brian Sedgmore MP whether it was not the case that "You're a dishonest person who gets civil servants to fake statistics for your own political purposes?"

The Chancellor blinked, his expression suggesting that Mr Sedgmore had a point but had perhaps overstated it. "Can I say that's not correct?" he ventured.

His questioner repeated of his discourtesy and tried what was, for the bear-like Sedgmore, a gentlemanly approach. "Don't you agree that your judgment is probably the last judgment on Earth that anybody's going to believe?"

"How can we trust you?" added Giles Radice. Mr Lamont muttered that this was "cheap". "You're cheap," said Mr Radice, in a conversational sort of way—but others were waiting for a chat too. Alan Beith wanted to tell him that he was in a hole. Dark-skinned Diane Abbott had broached the subject of Black Wednesday, signalling that the phrase was not, after all, politically incorrect: and Nicholas Budgen wanted to follow up his kindly suggestion that Lamont was telling lies. On these occasions, Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW) becomes contempt made manifest.

The Cheshire cat may have left only its grin behind but, with the Wolverhampton cat, the last thing to hover, still visible, in the air would be the sneer. The only compensation for Lamont must have been that MPs were so eager to prove that he had made a mess of the past that they never got round to proving he was going to make a mess of the future.

And all this, live on Radio 4, visible to the nation on BBC2 television, and

accompanied by the stealthy tap of the Commons stenographers and the scratching of a score of reporters' pencils, so that it can all be published today. The committee room looked packed, crushed, over-lit and sweaty. Nobody else submits to questioning like this without legal aid, and all the Chancellor had was his assistant, Nigel Wicks, who would scribble notes furiously while Lamont stalled with phrases such as "and can I just add, while we're on this subject..." (scribble, scribble) "one further point, and I think, an important one..." (scribble, scribble) "and it's this (Chancellor glances at note, trying to decipher) M0, M1 and M2..."

When the Chancellor was not glaring at his notes, he was staring in a strangely fixated way at both his cuffs, which had emerged completely from the ends of his jacket arms. I briefly considered the possibility that the government's new economic policy may have been written on his cuffs, but dismissed it. One cuff would have been more than sufficient.

Chancellor digs in his heels over handling of sterling

BY ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

NORMAN Lamont yesterday staunchly defended his actions in the days leading up to Black Wednesday, September 16, and the action he took on the day in his vain attempt to keep sterling in the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that since that time he had neither heard nor read anything that suggested that the outcome could have been different.

Mr Lamont's comments were made in evidence to the emergency meeting of the Commons Treasury select committee. During a tough grilling that lasted almost two hours, he fended off sharp criticisms from Tory as well as Labour MPs and firmly rejected suggestions that the government had not seen the crisis looming. He said that ever since the French referendum had been announced the government knew that there would be difficulties in the foreign exchange markets.

Ministers had not wanted to leave the ERM, he said. But problems had arisen, in part because of the high cost of German reunification.

"Our intention is to resume our membership of the ERM in due course, but only when a number of important conditions are met. Perhaps the most fundamental point is that we would not be prepared to rejoin until the requirements of German and United Kingdom monetary policy are much more aligned than they are today."

He made clear his fear that a falling pound could put inflation at risk. "I have demonstrated we are prepared to take tough measures to keep inflation down," he said.

Mr Lamont rejected suggestions from committee members that there had been talks behind the scenes about re-aligning sterling within the ERM, and he defended the decision to enter the mechanism two years ago at DM2.59. It was close to the

market rate at the time and leaders of industry thought that the rate was right, he said.

Mr Lamont said that now the pound was no longer in the ERM the interest rates would be set after taking into account a number of indicators, such as the money supply. It was simply not realistic to put monetary policy or interest rate policy on "auto-pilot". A considerable degree of judgment was required, and even now he would have to continually exercise his judgment about the level of interest rates required to meet inflation objectives.

But Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, said: "Given the way you exercised your judgment during the sterling crisis, it is probably the last judgment on earth that the markets are going to believe."

The Chancellor retorted: "I do not accept that for one minute, and I have yet to have it demonstrated to me by you or anyone else what judgment was wrong during the week leading up to Black Wednesday."

Giles Radice (Durham North, Lab) said that in view of the Chancellor's erroneous predictions over the years about the end of the recession "would you not agree that the best service you can give to the British economy is actually resign?"

The Chancellor retorted: "I don't agree with that. Thank you very much."

In another sharp dash, Mr Radice accused the Chancellor of saying one thing in a letter to the committee and another to the Tory party conference. "You say different things to different audiences and that is why you are not trusted any more," he said. Again Mr Lamont dismissed the allegation, saying the two statements had been consistent.

Lamont holds line, page 1
Leading article, page 19
Cautious Lamont, page 23



John Watts: has a reputation for being tough and shrewd.

Shrewd MP is unlikely inquisitor

BY PETER RIDDOLL, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Watts is an unlikely grand inquisitor. Chairing yesterday's televised questioning of Norman Lamont was by far his most prominent public role during nine years as an MP. Typically he chose to be an unassuming chairman, letting the committee members take the lead.

Since being elected Tory MP for Slough in 1983, he has seldom courted publicity and his comments have rarely been noticed. Mr Watts is that unusual phenomenon, an MP who underestimates himself. He can give the impression of being a bluff right-winger, a Thatcherite from the outer fringes of London. That, and the appearance at times of being indolent, explain why he has not become a minister when less talented contemporaries have.

He is certainly on the right of the party. He supports the restoration of capital punishment, opposes abortion and takes a tough line on immigration. As leader of Hillingdon Borough Council, west London, in 1978-84 he was in the vanguard of the new Tory approach to local government.

Mr Watts, 45, is part of the same Cambridge generation as Richard Ryder, Tory chief whip, and David Mellor, former heritage secretary. Like them, he was university Conservative Association chairman and had a reputation for being tough and shrewd.

If he has, so far, missed out on a ministerial career, he is well on the way to becoming a pillar of the Tory backbenches.

Resilient fighter goes the distance

BY PETER RIDDOLL, POLITICAL EDITOR

NORMAN Lamont's appearance before the Treasury committee was, like most such heavily hyped events, an anticlimax. To use a boxing metaphor, seemingly incapable on such occasions, no one landed a knockout blow, nor should one have been expected. Mr Lamont may not be an unconquerable champ, but he is resilient and wily enough to absorb the obvious blows from the committee. It was crude and brutal at times, but the Chancellor has survived.

A better metaphor might be that the government faces a long-distance obstacle course. Each obstacle is depicted as make-or-break, when each is just one more hurdle to be cleared, with several more ahead. Last week, John Major and Mr Lamont overcame the hurdle of the Tory party

POLITICAL COMMENTARY

conference, the former in somewhat better shape than the latter. And yesterday, in evidence to separate Commons committees, Mr Lamont and Douglas Hurd cleared further hurdles.

Mr Lamont filled out his statement of last Thursday. He disappointed the pure monetarists and Euro-sceptics by emphasising the importance of the exchange rate, in view of the need to hold down inflation, and by indicating that the cabinet's aim is still to re-enter the exchange-rate mechanism when German and British monetary conditions are more in line.

But the test will now be deeds rather than words; whether, or more probably when, he can announce a further cut in interest rates.

His difficulty, as yesterday's questioning showed, is the damage to his credibility from the past month's events. Perseverance, that may make his actions more cautious.

Mr Hurd was less in the public spotlight yesterday. But his immediate task is as difficult as Mr Lamont's. Following his talks with the smaller EC countries over the past few days, he again sought to dampen "unreal expectations" about Friday's EC summit in Birmingham. When this meeting was originally fixed in the wake of the débacle of September 16 and the French referendum, the aim was to launch a review of the ERM and to issue a declaration on subsidiarity.

Now, British ministers no longer talk about fault lines in the ERM. Instead, the summit will merely reiterate that finance ministers, who will not be in Birmingham, will undertake "reflection and analysis" on the system.

British officials still hope at least for a statement of principle on subsidiarity, leading to binding guidelines and changes being agreed at Edinburgh, but smaller countries oppose modifications to decision making which they fear would work against their interests. So Birmingham is now being seen as a chance to review the situation rather than to take firm decisions.

After Friday's summit, like the hurdles of the autumn economic statement, the promised Commons debate on European policy, the Edinburgh summit in mid-December and the start of the Commons committee stage of the Maastricht bill. None individually will be decisive, but cumulatively they will determine whether the cabinet can keep its European and economic strategies intact.

Lamont interrogated by MPs

Continued from page 1
again appeared to rule out big reductions in interest rates, stressing time and again the dangers of a weak pound rekindling inflation. He would not take risks with inflation, he said. He did not believe in "lick starting" the economy by some artificial stimulus or device.

Despite offering a strong defence of the way the European exchange-rate mechanism had operated for most of Britain's membership, he said there could be no return until British and German economic policies were in harmony. In particular the interest rate paths in both countries had to be consistent with "sustained growth" being resumed in Britain.

The Chancellor underlined the toughness of the public spending round when he indicated that some capital spending could be at risk. He said that he would "do his best" to safeguard capital projects.

The strong emphasis laid by Mr Lamont on the key conditions for returning to the ERM led some MPs to believe that re-entry would be long delayed. John Watts, chairman of the committee, said last night: "The position is still slightly fudged. But he has set out preconditions that will be difficult to achieve for some time and it probably means that we will not return until well into the future, if at all."

Mr Lamont rejected suggestions that the monetary framework set out since the ERM withdrawal was too discretionary and arbitrary. It was simply unrealistic to put monetary policy or interest rate policy on "auto-pilot."

"I don't think one should make the mistake of thinking that here in this country everything is difficult and confused, in terms of monetary policy, while there is another world where everything is clear and straightforward," Mr Watts suggested

after the meetings that Mr Lamont's position was "stronger than when he went in. He held up well under some fairly rigorous questioning."

But Nicholas Budgen, Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-west, said: "His difficulty is that the policy he conducted for two years turns out to be a disaster and a humiliation. No amount of intelligence, charm and well-bred advocacy will paper over that disaster."

Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, accused Mr Lamont of pushing people in pursuit of a policy in which he did not believe.

Mr Lamont replied: "That is complete nonsense and I totally reject it."

Asked by the Labour MP Giles Radice whether the best service he could perform would be to resign, Mr Lamont said: "I don't agree with that, thank you very much."

ERM 'will not change'

Continued from page 1

John Major will dine with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, on Thursday. Aware of the damaged faith in Brussels, Jacques Delors, the Commission president, plans to tell summit leaders that they may be able to throw out Commission ideas for new EC rules that do not conform to the "subsidiarity" principle.

Yesterday evening, M Delors and his 16 colleagues on the Commission, including Sir Leon Brittan and Bruce Millan, met in a four-hour session at their Breydel headquarters to discuss what ground they could give back to member states.

Herr Kohl and Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, met in Bonn yesterday to prepare for the meeting. The two men also discussed the deadlock over the Gatt round which promises to be a key issue on Friday.

Two-speed Europe, page 10

Olivetti 386sx

only £499

LOWEST EVER PRICE!

- 16MHz 80386sx processor
- 40Mb hard disk
- 14" VGA mono monitor (Add £100 for VGA Colour)
- 3 1/2" 1.44Mb disk drive
- 2Mb RAM expandable to 8Mb
- PS/2 compatible keyboard
- Full range of options

FREE MOUSE and WINDOWS

WITH VOUCHER FOR 3 FREE InkJet Cartridges worth £54

Olivetti InkJet Printer £279

Olivetti JP 350S

- Excellent, laser-quality printing with a full range of fonts and typescripts
- Easy to change, no-mess print cartridge
- Compact and stylish design
- Easy to operate and set up

FREEPHONE 0800 317 307
(AFTER HOURS 081-514 7887)

Best Buys Best Buys Computers,
Showroom: 533 High Rd., Ilford, Essex IG1 1TZ
Fax: 081-553 3343

IRA terror campaign

Scotland Yard appeals for calm in wake of Covent Garden bomb

■ The eighth London blast in six days shows that IRA has returned to its early tactics — random attacks on soft targets

BY STEWART TENDLER AND RICHARD FORD

LUNCHTIME drinkers and diners at a West End public house became the latest victims of the IRA yesterday as the terrorists switched their campaign to a random attack designed to cause maximum disruption and panic among thousands of office workers and tourists in central London.

The bombing of the Sussex public house with a timed device left in a toilet took the IRA back to a tactic last seen on the mainland more than 15 years ago. It left five people injured, one of them seriously. All were middle-aged men.

Two of the victims were released from hospital after treatment. The others, including Peter Rooke, 48, the pub

manager, were detained overnight for observation.

John Cracknell, 24, a passer-by who witnessed the explosion, said: "There was glass all over the pavement and some smoke coming out of the building. I ran in through the front door of the pub and downstairs to see if anybody was injured. The stairs were strewn with rubble."

Sef Townsend, 44, an art student, said he had been about to enter the pub when the bomb exploded, but had stopped to give a passer-by directions. "If I had been three seconds earlier, before I saw this man who wanted help, I would have been in there," he said. "I went in and saw the carnage. The bar was com-

pletely destroyed and there was a man lying there. He looked very ill."

Susan Ware, 24, from Hampstead, said: "There was a loud bang. I felt a whoosh from the blast and then when I looked around people were coming out of the pub with their hands over their ears. I ran away in case there was another."

A man who was working in offices above the public house, which is owned by the Chef and Brewer Group, said he saw the barman being led into an ambulance.

As police began searching the debris, Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, urged the public to be vigilant, but said they should not be deterred from going about their normal business. Police have constantly asked the public not to panic.

Mr Churchill-Coleman said after visiting the scene: "These things are going to happen from time to time." As Yard officers swept up shattered glass from the pavement outside the pub, he said that the aim of terrorists was to stop people carrying on with their lives.

Detectives discount a campaign specifically targeted for the run-up to Christmas, but attacks on public houses will add to concern at the breadth of the campaign and will undoubtedly cause fear among people organising pre-Christmas festivities.

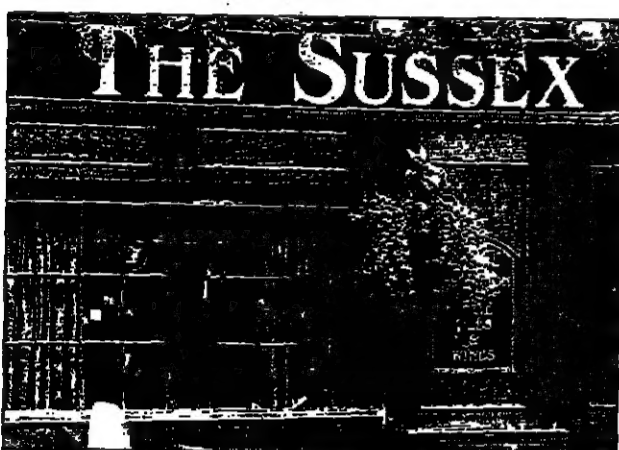
Many of the attacks in the early mainland campaigns were levelled at public houses used by military units serving in Ulster in towns such as Aldershot, Guildford and Woolwich, but there was no such justification for the bombs that blew up two Birmingham public houses in 1974 killing 21 people and injuring 162. The Birmingham pub bombings illustrated the vulnerability of Britain's traditional social meeting places.

Incendiary devices in the past year have damaged two public houses in central London close to the scene of yesterday's attack, but without casualties. Now an active service unit bent on keeping up the pressure of the past week's seven bombs has chosen another soft target. Yesterday's bomb was slipped into the Sussex's toilet during the lunch hour, when staff would have been too busy to keep a careful watch and customers were constantly coming and going.

The suddenness of the attack left customers dazed, some suffering from shock, others injured by flying glass. There was initial calm, but as police and ambulance men swamped the district, panic spread as people began running from the area.

Police have increased their surveillance of London, with more checks in the evenings and the drafting of 200 officers to provide 24-hour coverage around Whitehall. But tighter daytime security would create almost as much disruption as bombs themselves.

Five hurt, page 1
Diary, page 18



Wrecked: the Sussex after yesterday's explosion

Only direct rule will end killing in Ulster

BY CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

THE recent IRA bombings in London are tempting to the IRA both because they attract far more publicity than comparable operations in Northern Ireland and because things have been going relatively badly this year in the province.

The balance of the struggle, which is both political and sectarian on both sides, has swung against the terrorists from the Catholic community.

From the beginning of the systematic lethal violence in 1972 up to and including 1977 it is the Catholic side which has been on the offensive. But this year saw the Protestants fight back. Government figures show that, of the 61 civilians killed by the bombers and gunmen, this year, 43 were Roman Catholics and 18 were Protestants.

The shift in the balance of killing makes London a more attractive theatre of operations for the losing side. The more that the Catholic community in Northern Ireland bears the brunt of terrorist attacks itself the more likely it is that individuals in that community will start providing information about the activities of the terrorists within that community. So the IRA come under triple pressure from the Protestant terrorists, from their own com-

munity and from better-informed security forces.

On the side of the Protestant community, this increase in "hit-for-killing" reflects a loss of confidence in the capacity of the British government and its security forces to protect the lives of Protestants.

In the light of these figures, there is an urgent need for a review of security policy. Specifically, the question of internment needs to be reassessed. The talks on "the future of Northern are a distraction from the main problem of security. The talks have virtually no chance of reaching agreement, and even if they did, the agreement would not end or even reduce, the violence.

All that the quest for a political solution suggests to the paramilitaries on both sides is that Britain is desperately anxious to disengage from Northern Ireland. The paramilitaries therefore prepare for the ensuing full-scale civil war.

When these talks fail, the government should accept that there is no substitute for direct rule in Northern Ireland and that they must start ruling instead of endlessly talking. The day that that decision is taken will see the beginning of the end of paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland.

British chefs invade world's culinary capital

BY ROBIN YOUNG

NINE chefs and *The Times* cook took British cooking to Paris last night, aiming to prove that British cuisine is not as soggy as its climate.

The Fête de la Gastronomie Anglaise, presented last night to 85 invited guests including leading French chefs, food critics and gourmets, was conceived by the Earl of Bradford, owner of Porters Restaurant in Covent Garden and chairman of the Great Britain-Great Food working party set up by the British Tourist Authority.

Lord Bradford said yesterday: "British standards of cooking have improved tremendously but that message has not yet been fully received abroad. We needed to do something wanted to present an unmistakably British meal cooked entirely by British chefs in the heartland of French cuisine."

The celebration had to be

Pledging to do something audacious, British chefs last night served the best of British food for France's gastronomes

achieved, Lord Bradford pointed out, without the benefit of any budget. Chefs and companies gave their services and provided the all-British ingredients for the six-course banquet served in Les Princes restaurant at the George V Hotel in central Paris.

The captain was David Dorricott, executive chef of the Portman Hotel in London. Alongside him were Sally Clarke of Clarke's Restaurant in Kensington, Paul Gayler of the Lansborough Hotel, Redmond Hayward of Redmond's in Cheltenham, Ann Long of Long's in Truro, Murdoch MacSweeney of the Oakley Court Hotel in Windsor, Sonia Stevenson, formerly of the Horn of Plenty at Gubworthy in Devon, Michael Coaker of the Mayfair Hotel and Claire Clark, pastry chef

from the Portman. The tenth was Frances Bissell, *The Times* cookery writer and a veteran of cooking in hotel kitchens in venues as far afield as Madrid, Manila, Hong Kong and Bangkok.

"We wanted to tackle the derogatory things said about British cooking head on," Lord Bradford said, "so we deliberately chose to serve our main course, partridge with cabbage, to show that British cabbage is not always soggy and over-cooked."

The partridge weren't French, either, but British grey-legs, hung only three days to accord with French taste for less forcefully flavoured game. Mr Gayler explained. The partridge was accompanied by crisp leaves of white cabbage, parsnip, a vegetable seldom encountered

in French restaurants, glazed chestnuts, baby onions and new potatoes.

The main course was preceded by a small cup of oxtail consommé with parsley dumplings. Ms Stevenson said the dumplings were based on a *chow* rather than *suet*, for keeping qualities rather than for fear of rude comments about British stodge. The juice of parsley and lemon thyme had been added with a dash of nutmeg.

Sally Clarke and Ann Long took charge of preparing a "collation of British seafood" that included buttered crab, jellied eels and freshly hot-smoked mackerel that were still warm. Mrs Bissell and Claire Clark prepared the sweet, baked apple crumble with mead ice-cream. The apples were British Cox,

scooped out and filled with Bramley, topped with the crumble mix. The cheese blind tastings had been arranged in London to select Appleby's Cheshire, Montgomery's Cheddar, Sandham's Lancashire, Colston Basset Stilton and James Lane's Gospel Green cheese from Sussex.

The meal was rehearsed and tasted three times by the chefs in London and the ingredients, with a sheath of accompanying paperwork to ensure their safe passage through French customs, had been taken to Paris in a Porters' van on Sunday night.

The chefs started work at 6.30 in the morning and were completing the finishing touches as guests arrived in the evening but they had time to consider adding a few canapés and sweetmeats as extra proofs of the excellence of modern British cookery. The proof of the British pudding will, it was hoped, be in the publicity in the French press this morning.

Businessmen deny breaking Iraq ban

BY PETER VICTOR

THREE businessmen deceived government officials to avoid a ban on the export of military machinery to Iraq, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. They sold lathes, associated tooling and computer software specifically designed to manufacture fuse parts for bombs and missiles needed by Saddam Hussein's armed forces, it was alleged.

Alan Moses QC for the prosecution, said the equipment was bought to produce fuses "to detonate shells, mortars, rockets, air bombs and other military ordnance". Three men, all in senior positions with Matrix Churchill, a Coventry engineering company, gave false descriptions to trade and industry department officials of the use to which the machinery would be put. They also implied it could be used for civilian purposes, he said.

Paul Henderson, 52, of Coventry, at the time managing director of Matrix Churchill, Trevor Abraham, 45, from near Coventry, the former commercial manager, and Peter Allen, 46, of Stoughton, Leicester, the former sales director, deny four charges of being knowingly concerned in the export or attempted export of prohibited goods between July 1988 and August 1990.

Mr Moses said the machin-

ery was supplied and exported by Matrix Churchill under contracts with Cardoen, a Chilean company, and Nassar, an Iraqi company. "All three knew, say the prosecution, that the contracts were for the export of machinery to produce militarily related components. All three were involved in deceiving the DTI."

Mr Moses told the court Matrix Churchill's contracts with Cardoen to export the machinery to Iraq were worth £12.75 million. The defendants gave false descriptions of what the machinery was to be used for and never disclosed its true purpose to the DTI. They pretended it was for general engineering.

"They did so to get round the ban, for if the truth were told about those machines they couldn't be successfully exported under the contracts which were of the greatest importance and value to Matrix Churchill," the British company even agreed to train Iraqis in how to use the equipment once it had arrived in their country, he said.

At the start of the case, expected to last ten weeks, Judge Brian Smedley asked potential jurors to step down if they were employed by the Ministry of Defence, the DTI, the Foreign Office or any of the security services.

The trial resumes today.

Boy lives after car reverses over him

BY PETER VICTOR

A BOY of five escaped with cuts and bruises after his mother accidentally reversed over him in the family car and then drove back over his body.

Alex Shanks was knocked to the ground and under the wheels as his mother, Pat, moved the car into a parking space. She then drove forward over him, thinking the car was still on top of him. He was rushed to hospital but found to be suffering only from a nasty cut to the head.

The boy had crept behind the family's Ford Cortina to give it a push as his mother moved it to allow a mechanic to examine it outside their home in Hastings, Sussex.

His mother, a wedding photographer, dialed 999 believing he was dead after she discovered him lying in a pool of blood. He was taken by ambulance to the nearby Conquest Hospital.

Sitting by her son's bedside yesterday as he sat up playing with his toys, Mrs Shanks said: "I thought I had killed him. Alex ran up behind the car and he was pretending to push it. I suppose he thought he was helping. I couldn't see him in the rear-view mirror and started reversing. I could feel something go under my wheels and heard a whimpering. I thought it was my worst nightmare come true."

"I panicked. He was trapped underneath the car and I moved forward then I went over him again. I couldn't bear to look and just sat in the car. When I did get out I saw Alex lying there crying. I thought he was dying. He had an horrific head wound. He was covered in blood and you could see through to his skull."

"I was shaking and couldn't bear to pick him up. A neighbour dialed 999 and I went with him in the ambulance fearing the worst. When we got to hospital it seemed like ages before we realised he was all right apart from a very nasty cut."

"I was absolutely amazed and so were the doctors. My car is pretty heavy but they think he survived because the back wheel clipped the top of his head. They said it was incredible he wasn't crushed or hadn't suffered massive internal injuries."

Doctors gave Alex a clean bill of health following a series of tests and ten stitches to his head wound.



Power broker: Madonna treats viewers of the French television show *Sept sur Sept* to her thoughts on the Balkan crisis

Paris swoons as queen of Sex bares her soul

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE country that reveres Jerry Lewis and awarded a cultural decoration to Sylvester Stallone has, not surprisingly, been much exercised over the past two days by a visit from Madonna.

The passage of the reigning queen of outrageous hype through Paris, to promote her new sex book and erotic record, obliterated most other news. Treated to the trappings of a state visitor, including motorcades and

protection by riot police, Madonna spent the weekend expanding to a rapt French audience on the purpose of her "struggle" against intolerance. Aids, homophobia and hypocrisy.

Last night she flew into Luton airport in pursuit of yet more publicity for a book that displays her over-exposed self in 128 pages of photographs.

Today she will record a television chat show with Jonathan Ross, to be broadcast next week, and, according to her London publicist,

will probably go shopping. She is expected to return to the United States for a book launching party on Thursday, at which the only ingredient missing will be the book itself.

The French daily *Libération* claimed yesterday: "Madonna's art is in pushing as far as possible the limit of provocation to kick the rear of an inhibited America," explaining much of the fascination for Madonna in a country which believes it has nothing to learn from anyone about the art of seduction.

The French see Madonna's "in your face" vulgarity as her legitimate weapon against what they are told is America's puritan regime. *Le Quotidien de Paris* hailed her book as "one of the most radical gestures since... the publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*".

But sex took second place to the high-point of the royal visit: a long probe of her views on such matters as Bosnia-Herzegovina and welfare policy as the guest of *Sept sur Sept*, a current-affairs programme that nor-

mally interviews presidents and prime ministers. "If one day I'm candidate for the presidency," she told an obsequious interviewer, "I will have one advantage: everyone will know about my past."

Madonna's explicit video for her new single will be broadcast on *Top of the Pops* this week, the BBC decided yesterday. The film which goes with the single *Erotica*, currently at No 11 in the charts, shows nude shots of Madonna, complete with black-out censor strips.

Plumber wins £5,000 for 'cowboy' libel

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A PLUMBER who sued Thames Television for calling him a "cowboy", claiming that he overcharged pensioners, won £5,000 in a High Court libel action yesterday. Sean Hannan, 29, said after the verdict: "I think justice was done."

Thames had paid £155 into court as a settlement offer before the six-day hearing but now faces legal costs estimated at £50,000. The jury took one hour and 40 minutes to find for Mr Hannan, a New Zealander, of Merton Park, southwest London.

Mr Hannan told the court that he was "absolutely appalled" at his inclusion in an item entitled "Money down the drain" during an October 1991 programme in the *Thames in Action* series. He claimed the attack was biased, unfair and put him in a "chamber of horrors".

He was working for a company called Aabacare in September 1991 when he was

called out to an address in Teddington, west London, by Monica White, 64, to deal with a blockage.

Unknown to him, he was filmed by Thames as he dealt with a "set-up" test, devised by the National Association of Plumbing, which had put a cement bag down a drain. He spent two hours working at the site and charged Mrs White a total of £441, at a rate of £30 per half hour, or part of, plus VAT.

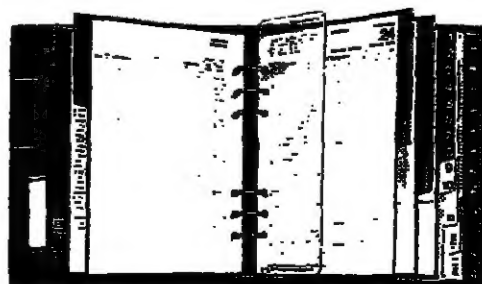
Thames denied libel, pleading justification and fair comment. It claimed it was a simple job which should have taken Mr Hannan 30 minutes and cost Mrs White £35.

Mr Hannan told the jury that the cement bag in the drain had solidified. After dealing with it, he had tried to find out how it got there and whether there were any others. He checked the amenities and tidied up. He denied putting earth down a drain, as Thames had alleged.

Time is of the essence

Now's the time to re-order your Annual Update for 1993. But there's only one way to ensure you receive it in good time — by calling our new number, now.

0908 282211



What hasn't changed, is Time/system itself. Still the definitive and best designed planning system of them all. No wonder, year after year, professionals like yourself couldn't manage without it.

Time/system®

WHERE TIME IS A COMMODITY — TIME/SYSTEM IS A NECESSITY

Challenger 2 rejection angers Vickers

Kuwaitis accused of giving in to Americans over tank deal

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

KUWAIT was accused yesterday of giving in to political pressure from Washington, after confirmation that Britain's Challenger 2 tank had been rejected in favour of its American rival in a £1 billion deal for 236 tanks.

There was also anger at Vickers Defence Systems, manufacturers of the Challenger 2, after Ghazi Al-Rayes, Kuwait's ambassador in London, said the British tank developed "snags" during trials in the Kuwaiti desert in August. The ambassador also said the presentation of Challenger 2 was "not up to the standard" of the American M1A2 Abrams tank.

He denied it was a political decision. "Britain and the United States are our friends, we just chose the best tank," he said.

Sir Colin Chandler, chief

■ Britain's failure to win a £1 billion tank contract with Kuwait has led to accusations of last-minute political arm-twisting by Washington

executive of Vickers, which employs 1,800 people at Newcastle upon Tyne and Leeds, dismissed the claim that Challenger 2 had been outgunned and outclassed in the Kuwaiti trials. "Challenger 2 successfully destroyed targets beyond 3,000 metres, whereas the M1A2 couldn't do it beyond 2,000 metres."

The Ministry of Defence was informed verbally of the decision yesterday only after a British embassy official in Kuwait was given the news. Sources at Vickers blamed the defeat on strong political lobbying by the US government, in particular a last-minute letter from Richard Cheney,

the US defence secretary. But the company did not criticise the British government. "Our government has given us tremendous support," a spokesman said.

The spokesman said: "We think it is as a result of intense political lobbying by the US government during the run-up to their election. Naturally we are disappointed and we are surprised. We were expecting to win. But it won't have any effect on jobs. We have still got an order book worth about £7 million covering five years work and we are still promoting Challenger 2."

David Clelland, Labour MP for Tyne Bridge, who repre-

sents many Vickers workers on Tyne, said: "It's quite clear this decision is a political decision. It's timed to give President Bush the flip he needs. That's what it's about. It's nothing to do with technicalities."

Exports of the Challenger 2 are crucial for the future of Vickers, which last year won a much smaller than expected order for 140 tanks from the British defence ministry. If the company fails to win exports, a yawning gap in its production book will open up in two to three years.

A defence ministry spokesman said: "This is obviously very disappointing news for Vickers. The government gave its full backing and support to Vickers and we share in their disappointment."

The fear now is that the Kuwaiti decision could have a knock-on effect throughout the Gulf and that other countries wanting to buy Western tanks will also go for the M1A2.

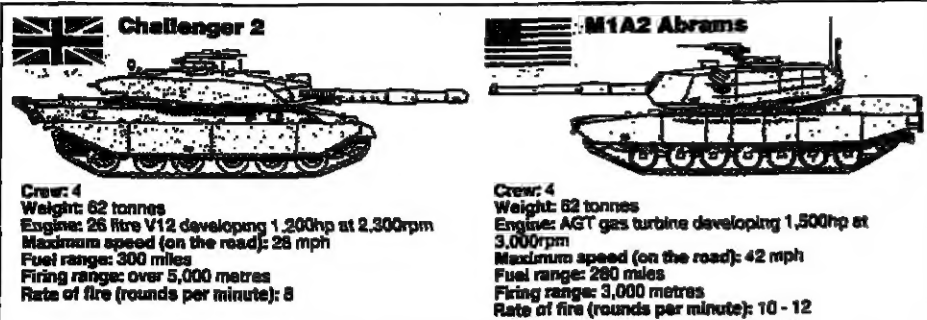
Jobs for nearly 2,000 people hang on the success of the Challenger 2 tank. Although Vickers was quick yesterday to reject suggestions that the loss of the Kuwaiti order would bring immediate redundancies, the long-term fate of the two identical production lines at Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne depends on new contracts being secured (Paul Wilkinson writes).

In spite of company officials claiming there was plenty of work in hand and new markets were still being tapped there was undisguised anger at the way in which the Kuwaiti deal was snatched from them.

Later yesterday afternoon the tank builder's parent company Vickers PLC issued a statement from its London headquarters saying it still had not received official confirmation that the order had gone elsewhere.

"There are of course strong political elements in overseas defence sales and these appear to have played a significant part in Kuwait's decision," it said. Mr Cheney's letter stressed the importance of the deal in maintaining American aid in the Gulf.

Industry reeling, page 25



Goliath outguns British David

THE competition for lucrative tank deals in the Middle East has generated one of the fiercest promotional campaigns by the two main rival companies — one British, one American — with each whispering damning reports of the other's product in the race for the contracts. Long-term survival, jobs, credibility and professional pride hang in the balance.

Vickers Defence Systems in one corner and General Dynamics in the other are not unlike David and Goliath, but this time Goliath is winning. The American giant, based in Michigan and Lima, Ohio, needs the export deals for its M1A2 Abrams tank as much as Vickers, tiny by comparison, needs every contract it can get. If Vickers dies, British independent tank manufacturing dies with it.

There are four tank manufacturing countries: the United States, Britain, Germany and France. In the Middle East only the Americans and British are seriously in the running. The Germans, with their Leopard 2, have a policy of

not selling arms to the Middle East and the French Leclerc tank is considered unsuitable.

Vickers was reasonably confident of persuading Kuwait and others to buy Challenger 2 after the defence ministry bought it for the British army. Defence sources said that, in that context, the American Abrams came third.

However, the desert trials of the M1A2 and Challenger 2 in Kuwait in August were the most important testing ground, because the Americans were convinced that Britain bought Challenger 2 to save Vickers and 1,800 jobs. While saying nothing officially, the Americans claimed that, in gunnery tests against soft targets at a range of less than 4,000 metres, the M1A2 hit ten out of ten and Challenger seven out of ten. They also claimed that, in firing on a slope, the M1A2 hit six out of six targets, Challenger two out of eight. Vickers strongly disputed the American claims and put out photographs of an M1A2 being rescued from a sand dune.



Stuck-on art: Senka Loosemore, left, and Kerry Hughes, both 23 and graphic-art students from Croydon College, south London, at the launch yesterday in Bradford of the Royal Mail stamp marking the inception of the single European market, designed from their concept by Bradford-based artist David Hockney

Queen to visit new Germany

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen will take her first step into the former communist empire of eastern Europe next week when she pays a state visit to Germany to celebrate the country's reunification. According to the Duke of Edinburgh, she will walk through the Brandenburg Gate into the former East Berlin on her last visit in 1987: to celebrate the city's 750th anniversary, the wall was still standing.

During her five-day visit, her third since she came to the throne, the Queen will spend a day in the former eastern half of the country, visiting Leipzig where resistance to the communist regime first emerged, and Dresden where, 47 years after one of the most devastating and controversial bombing raids of the war, she will attend a service of reconciliation in the city's cathedral.

Security will be particularly tight during her Dresden visit because of threats by neo-Nazi groups to stage a demonstration while she walks in the city square. Both the British and German governments are anxious to play down the recent row over currency, and hope the state visit will underline longer-term friendships. The Queen's host will be the non-political president, Richard von Weizsäcker.

Howard to speed up phase-out of CFCs

THE government is expected to decide this week to accelerate its proposed phase-out of CFCs and other chemicals that destroy the ozone layer by a full year to the end of 1994.

If it does so, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, will propose the new date as a target for the European Community, which chairs the council of EC environment ministers at their meeting in Luxembourg a week today.

Evidence of increasing ozone damage, such as the disclosure in *The Times* yesterday that the Antarctic ozone hole has for the first time passed over inhabited areas in South America and the Falklands, is putting growing pressure on governments all over the world to accelerate the CFC phase-out timetable.

Under the Montreal Protocol, the international community is only committed to abandoning CFCs by 2000, but the treaty is due to be renegotiated in Copenhagen next month.

"The revelation that the ozone hole has spread to inhabited areas of the planet must compel ministers to act this week and bring forward the phase-out date," Chris Rose, programme director for Greenpeace UK, said. "Alternative technologies exist — we don't need these chemicals." The EC has already committed itself to phase-out by January 1, 1996, but discussions are going on in Whitehall this week about the possibility of bringing this forward to January 1995; the environment department is committed to the earlier date.

Any practical difficulty in Britain will not be with British CFC producers, which are not big enough to matter, but with the small manufacturers of CFCs used in the chemical, used in refrigeration, air conditioning, and as solvents in electronics manufacturing, dry cleaning, and other uses.

The government is basing its decision this week on two management-consultant studies of these companies and their CFC phase-out problems. One study, by Touche Ross, concludes that the end of 1994 is a feasible date for CFC phase-out for the solvent sector; the other, on the refrigeration and air conditioning industries by the March Consulting Group, presents much evidence but leaves ministers to make up their own minds.

There are formidable political arguments for the government bringing the date forward this week. If the EC can go to Copenhagen with a phase-out date of January 1, 1995 it will set the pace for the negotiations.

Unexciting game ends in draw

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE eighteenth game of the chess match between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky ended in a draw last night. The pair, who have won to date, have now drawn seven of the ten games.

Spaskey, playing white, was unable to exploit what game expert observers said was a slight early advantage, and the players agreed to the draw after the thirty-sixth move.

Fischer widened his lead to 7-3 on Saturday, winning a game that had been postponed from Thursday after doctors found Spassky, a Russian who is now a French citizen, to be suffering from exhaustion and stress.

Sunday's game was a steady affair compared with the excitement of the previous two encounters. Fischer resorted again to the Queen's Gambit Accepted.

Although Spassky gained what appeared to be significant pressure, this turned out to be largely symbolic and evaporated around the thirtieth move. Game 19 in this world-record match is scheduled for tomorrow.

The thirty-sixth move left only opposite-colored bishops on the board in addition to the players' respective kings and pawns, making a draw inevitable.

The players left the playing hall without any comments to journalists or other observers. Spassky, who led 2-1 after the fifth game, has won only one of the last 13 contests. Experts at the match do not count him out, yet, but they say he probably cannot afford to lose any more games.

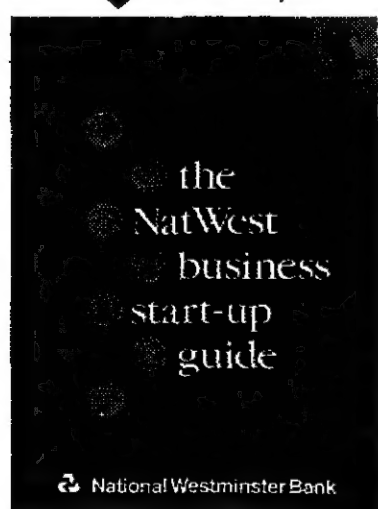
The first player to win ten games takes the \$3.35 million first prize, and the loser gets the remaining \$1.65 million. Draws do not count.

GAME 18			
White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	d5	20 Nc3	Bc6
2 c4	e4	21 Nc4	Kf7
3 Nf3	Nc6	22 Nc3	Kf7
4 e3	g6	23 Nc4	Bd7
5 Bc4	g5	24 Nc3	Bd7
6 Bc4	g4	25 Nc4	Bd7
7 Qd2	Qd7	26 Nc3	Bd7
8 Nc3	Qd7	27 Nc4	Bd7
9 Nc3	Qd7	28 Nc3	Bd7
10 Nc3	Qd7	29 Nc4	Bd7
11 Nc3	Qd7	30 Nc3	Bd7
12 Nc4	Qd7	31 Nc3	Bd7
13 Nc3	Qd7	32 Nc4	Bd7
14 Nc3	Qd7	33 Nc3	Bd7
15 Nc4	Qd7	34 Nc3	Bd7
16 Nc3	Qd7	35 Nc4	Bd7
17 Nc3	Qd7	36 Nc3	Bd7
18 Nc4	Qd7	37 Nc3	Bd7
19 Nc3	Qd7	38 Nc4	Bd7

ALL BOX NO REPLY SHOULD BE SENT TO:
BOX NO. DEPT
P.O. BOX 484
VIRGINIA
STREET
WAPPING
LONDON
E1 9DD

You've planned your new business. Now write your business plan.

Page 18 shows you how.



NatWest's comprehensive new Business Start-Up Guide covers many of the things you should consider before going it alone.

Everything from writing a business plan to insurance and legal considerations.

For your free copy, fill in the coupon or call us free on 0800 777 888.

Better still, why not contact your local Small Business Adviser?

With at least one in every high street branch, you've over 4000 to choose from.

0800 777 888

National Westminster Bank
We're here to make life easier

National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office, 41 Lothbury, London EC2F 2BP. Member of IFMO.

Please send me my free NatWest Business Start-Up Guide.

Fill in this coupon and return to: NatWest Small Business Services, FREEPOST, Hounslow TW4 5BR.

MR/MRS/MS/MISS _____ Initials _____

Address _____ Town/City _____

Postcode _____ Phone No _____

Do you have an account with NatWest? Yes ☐ No ☐

Branch Name _____ Ref No: 22116

Account Number _____ Sort Code _____

Would you like your Small Business Adviser to contact you to arrange a meeting? Yes ☐ No ☐

Data Protection Act - 1994. The information requested on this form will be used to enable NatWest to prepare the business start-up guide for you to enjoy a beneficial relationship with the Bank. The information may also be used to offer you other NatWest products and services as part of the Small Business Programme. This is designed to help you well informed of all the services we offer and anything new we introduce. Tick this box only if you wish to opt out of the NatWest Customer Mail Information Programme.

Medicine prize goes to US

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

TWO American biochemists were yesterday awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for discovering how enzymes regulate proteins inside cells, a control process vital to the proper functioning of the body.

Edmond Fischer and Edwin Krebs, both of the University of Washington in Seattle, won the award for their discovery of the process of reversible protein phosphorylation, in which a phosphate group is attached to a protein by an enzyme. Subsequently it has been found that the process is one of the most ubiquitous in biology, controlling the action of insulin, the function of muscles, the switching on of genes, the control of transpiration and the appearance of some cancers.

Dr Fischer, 73, and Dr Krebs, 74, made their initial discoveries in the mid-1950s. Studying muscle cells, which use an enzyme to catalyse the process of converting sugar to energy, they discovered that the enzyme was regulated by the addition and removal of phosphate groups. They isolated the chemical responsible, protein kinase.

Since then a number of protein kinases have been found, which regulate the

■ The Nobel Assembly has honoured two biochemists whose studies of how cell proteins are regulated help to explain some important processes of life



Fischer: made initial findings in the 1950s

functions of most of the thousands of proteins in the cell. "Their fundamental finding initiated a research area which today is one of the most active and wide-ranging," the Nobel Assembly said in its citation.

The innumerable cellular processes regulated by reversible protein phosphorylation concern almost all processes important to life.

Dr Fischer said yesterday: "I was very overwhelmed, very surprised, very pleased. There is so much beautiful work that is being done in biochemistry, I wonder 'Why me?'" he said when asked at his home in Seattle at 4am with the news.

Dr Krebs, who had prudently left his answering machine on, could not be contacted for his reaction.

Dr Fischer works in the University of Washington's department of biochemistry. Dr Krebs works in the departments of pharmacology and biochemistry at the university's medical school. The prize, worth about £700,000, will be shared between them.

'Drugs charges destroyed reputation'

Yard pays £50,000 for false imprisonment

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard has agreed to pay a west London community leader £50,000 and court costs to settle his action for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution by police after a drugs raid in Notting Hill in May 1988, the High Court was told yesterday.

The settlement will go to Frank Critchlow, founder of the Mangrove Community Association, but yesterday Patrick O'Connor, counsel for Mr Critchlow, told Mr Justice Otton that the Yard still refused to apologise for events in Notting Hill in May 1988.

Mr O'Connor told the court that Mr Critchlow claimed officers had conspired together and fabricated drug allegations to destroy or damage his reputation. "His arrest and trial, and the criminal allegations made against him, attracted very considerable publicity. He considers that the wrongs done to him can never be repaired and can

■ London police are paying thousands of pounds in damages each year. The latest case follows drugs charges against a black community leader

never be forgotten by him. He brought these proceedings to vindicate his reputation and to bring the officers responsible to account.

Mr Critchlow, a well-known figure in west London, was arrested in a raid on the All Saints Road area of Notting Hill and charged with possessing heroin and cannabis with intent to supply and permitting the supply of heroin, cannabis and other drugs. He pleaded not guilty at Knightsbridge Crown Court in June 1989 and was acquitted of all charges by the jury.

The raid on the community association was carried out by officers from Notting Hill police station. Mr O'Connor said Mr Critchlow was forced to the ground by Det Con Steven Wheatley, who was

then assisted by Det Con Adrian Dale. His hands were handcuffed behind his back and he was kept face down on the ground for about 20 minutes, with the two officers sitting on his back and a third placing a foot on his face. The handcuffs were removed only after he had been taken to the police station, where he was detained for eight hours.

DC Wheatley claimed he had seen Mr Critchlow throw a quantity of small plastic bags on the floor. Together with DC Dale, he also claimed he had found quantities of heroin and herbal cannabis on Mr Critchlow. Other officers claimed to have found cannabis and cocaine on the premises.

Mr Critchlow did not get bail for five weeks and faced strict and restrictive bail conditions. He relied substantially on the fact that acquittals were returned at nine other trials of people arrested at the premises and charged with drugs possession on what he alleged was fabricated evidence.

After the hearing, Mr Critchlow hugged his lawyers and supporters and said: "The only way to get rid of racism and corruption is by cases like this. Where it is found among police officers, they should be brought to book. They are damaging to the black community, not only in Notting Hill but right through the community. When a black person gets a false conviction, he can't get a job and it can lead to a worse situation."

The Yard said a disciplinary investigation into the case was still under way. It was hoped Mr Critchlow would now co-operate. The award means that so far this year the Yard has paid out £347,900 in damages. In all of 1991, £471,599 was paid.

MP libel challenged

THE Essex businessman ordered to pay £150,000 for libelling Teresa Gorman, the Conservative MP, challenged the verdict and damages in the Court of Appeal yesterday. Anthony Mudd claims, among other things, that the jury was misdirected by the judge.

Mr Mudd, 62, of Billericay, is seeking either a retrial of the whole action, a retrial of the damages issue or a reassessment of the damages.

David Eady QC told Lords Justices Neill, Russell and Rose that the case "could be viewed as something of a storm in a tea cup". It focused on details of transactions that took place in a political party four to five years ago.

In the High Court trial in June 1991, the jury decided that Mr Mudd had libelled

Mrs Gorman with malice. Mr Mudd claims that Mr Justice Drake misdirected the jury on the meaning of justification and malice and on the issue of damages.

The libel claim centred on a mock press release circulated to 91 leading Tories in May 1988, accusing Mrs Gorman, 60, MP for Billericay, of putting personal vanity before Conservative party interests. The release was the culmination of a row between her and Mr Mudd that had begun over allocation of dinner seats at the House of Commons to the Billericay Conservative Association, run by Mr Mudd. It accused her of opposing Mr Mudd's association out of personal spite and vanity.

Legal argument in the appeal is expected to last a week.



Time heals: a couple walking yesterday on Toys Hill where natural growth has repaired most of the damage left by the hurricane



Storm damage: devastated Toys Hill in 1987

Life returns as nature heals the scars left by the storm of 1987

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

AT TOYS HILL near Sevenoaks, in Kent, a pleasant wooded glade was left looking like a first world war battlefield after the great storm of October, 1987. Five years on, natural regrowth has almost hidden the scars left by those hours of fury and destruction.

During the night of October 15-16 hurricane-force winds ripped through the National Trust woodland, which was dangerously exposed at 800ft above sea level, toppling or damaging an estimated 90 per cent of the 400 acres of hardwood trees.

Throughout southeast

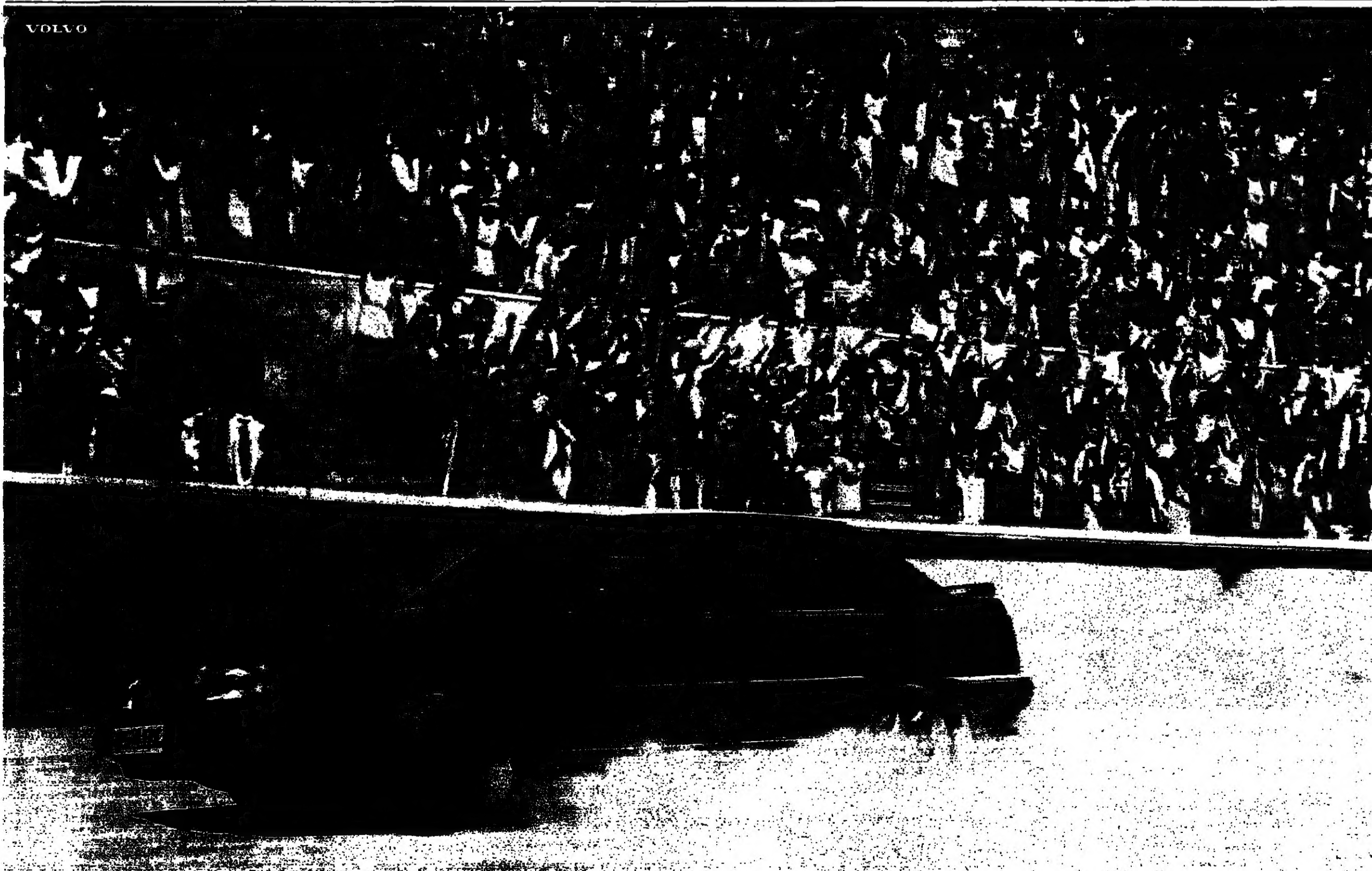
England, about 15 million trees were flattened, amounting to 4 million cubic metres of timber, the equivalent to what would normally have been felled over five years in the worst affected counties. But some wildlife may have gained from the timber industry's loss, scientists say.

Pat Morris, a zoologist at London University, said: "When the trees were blown down, clearings were created and regrowth of all kinds sprang up, bringing food within reach of deer, for example. More sunlight was let into the shrub layer which is where the berries and nuts are produced that are good

for dormice and other small mammals."

Even bats and squirrels, which live in hollow trees and depend on them for their food, seem to have survived the great storm better than expected. In the winter after the hurricane many bats found so many insects to eat that they forgot to hibernate.

Clearance of about 65 per cent of wind-blown trees was completed by January 1989. Conservationists say, however, that the woodlands that recovered best were those least disturbed by attempts to tidy up. The use of machines often did more harm than good.



MORE EXTRAS THAN BEN HUR.

Volvo are proud to present their latest epic production: the Special Edition 440 XL.

As you can see from our motion picture above, it boasts a host of spectacular features.

In order of appearance: low profile tyres,

sports wheel trims, tinted glass, colour mirrors, bespoke coach-lines and rear spoiler.

Behind the scenes, too, you will find some major attractions.

Namely a 1.8 litre fuel-injected engine, power

steering, a catalyser, central locking, split rear seat and a rev counter.

Also appearing in a supporting role is Volvo's legendary safety cage (something Mr. Hur would've appreciated on his own vehicle).

Despite all this, the admission price is more Cricklewood than Hollywood.

Just £10,995.

The new Volvo 440 XL. Coming soon to a showroom near you. **THE VOLVO 440XL. £10,995.**

VOLVO 440 FROM £995 INCLUDING CAN TAX & VEC EXCLUDING STANDARD NATIONAL DELIVERY CHARGE £200 INCLUDING VEC (SALES TAX) EXTRA. PRICES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TELEPHONE 0800 400 430.

Cashholder rate. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, Investors Protection Scheme and conforms to the Code of Banking Practice. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, 136 High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW.

Government plans to break up BR into rival franchises

By MICHAEL DYNES,
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail will be divided into 30 to 40 separate businesses reflecting local or regional identity under proposals for franchising passenger services to private sector operators contained in a consultation document published yesterday.

The design, duration, and geographical extent of each franchise will be decided after consultations with prospective operators, the document said. A "substantial volume" of passenger services was likely to be franchised within the lifetime of the current Parliament.

Outlining the government's proposals, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said: "We have taken quite a deliberate decision not to lay down a rigid blueprint for franchises. The private sector may well want to suggest different approaches for different types of service, and I want to make sure that the franchising system is flexible enough to accommodate their ideas."

The document, *The Franchising of Passenger Rail Services*, which develops the government's rail privatisation proposals announced in July, lays down how private

Private sector companies will be free to set fare levels under proposals to break up the national rail network into up to 40 passenger franchises

sector companies should go about submitting bids to take over BR's passenger services, while specifying in some detail what rights and obligations franchises will entail.

Although each franchise will be tailored to cater for local needs, services will be grouped in a way that makes commercial sense, while promoting competition, the document said. Franchisees would be responsible for maintaining all aspects of train operations.

Franchisees would generally be free to set fare levels, although restrictions would be imposed where the railways enjoyed a dominant market position, as in the case of Network SouthEast commuter services. Franchisees would be responsible for bearing operating costs and collecting revenue, while being free to project their own brand image.

Once ministers have decided how passenger services should be grouped for fran-

chising, private sector companies would be invited to compete for individual franchises through a competitive tendering process. "Franchising will be undertaken progressively rather than in a single big bang."

A new Franchising Authority would be created when the rail privatisation bill, which is expected to be submitted to Parliament in November, receives Royal Assent during 1993. The Franchising Authority would be responsible for arranging the competitions for granting franchises, the first of which is expected to start in 1994.

The head of the Franchising Authority would be appointed by the transport secretary, would be responsible for monitoring the performance of the franchisees during the franchise period. "If the franchisee fails to perform to the required standard he will be in breach of contract and liable to penalties including, in the last resort, the loss of the fran-

chise," the document said. The authority's head would be responsible for specifying the quality of rail services and fare levels where necessary.

Private sector companies wishing to run BR's passenger services would have to obtain an operator's licence from the Rail Regulator, a new authority which would be created by the rail privatisation bill to protect passenger interests, promote competition, and maximise the use of the rail network. "The licence will be a certificate of competence to operate one or more aspects of railway activities," the document said.

BR has been prohibited from bidding for the new franchises. Ministers are, however, encouraging management-employee buy-outs. Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union, said: "No amount of consultation will remove the basic truth that franchisees will only be interested in the most lucrative routes and that must lead to onset of reductions and closures of services around the country."

□ *The Franchising of Passenger Rail Services*, Transport Department, Railways 2a, Room S18/17, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.



Level best: Neil Caldwell, 18, of Torquay, Devon, was named the Associated Examining Board's A-level student of the year yesterday. Mr Caldwell, a Torquay Boys' Grammar School pupil, is now at Mansfield College, Oxford

Law Society proposes alternative to fixed fees

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Law Society yesterday made a last-ditch attempt to head off the Lord Chancellor's proposals for fixed fees in magistrates' courts after calls last week from legal aid lawyers for a campaign of national opposition.

With just three months before the government's deadline to bring in fixed fees for criminal legal aid work, the Law Society steered away from endorsing any kind of nationwide industrial action. Instead it put forward an alternative scheme of payment for magistrates' courts work, a compromise formula aimed at ending the long-running dispute between the profession and the government, which the society said had become "stale and arid".

At the same time, the society is taking legal advice on the prospects of taking the Lord Chancellor to court through judicial review if he fails to take its new proposals on board and proceeds with his own fixed fees scheme.

At a meeting last Friday of more than 100 representatives of local law societies, solicitors reiterated their opposition to the fixed-fees proposals and called on the society to co-ordinate some kind of national action against them.

Although the strength of opposition in some parts of the country, notably the West country and Shropshire, has prompted solicitors to withdraw from duty solicitor schemes, the extent of the resolve among the majority of the 3,000 criminal practitioners affected by the scheme is unclear.

Yesterday, the society said it was conducting a survey to ascertain what solicitors would do, including whether they would pull out from duty schemes, in the event that Lord Mackay of Clashfern proceeded with his fixed fees.

The new proposals are a compromise between fixed fees and the present system of hourly rates. Cases would have a "core" price, and then extra fixed payments would be added on, like building blocks, according to how much extra work a solicitor did. The price of each case could be worked out by the Legal Aid Board "simply by ticking a box", the society said.

The system is aimed at meeting what the society says is the failure of the government's proposals to guarantee the quality of solicitors' work while giving the government control over the cost of each case. It would take account of the different criminal justice procedures in the magistrates' courts brought in on October 1 by the Criminal Justice Act 1991.

The alternative proposals have been drawn up by the society's consultants, Touche Ross, on the basis of a report compiled for Lord Mackay by another firm of management consultants, Price Waterhouse.

That report identified defects in the government's proposals, saying that a "price per case" model, such as that drawn up by the Law Society, would have "very real advantages".

University newcomers score well

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the former polytechnics are placed above the traditional universities in rankings for the main subject areas, published today in the second part of *The Times* Good University Guide.

Sheffield Hallam and Manchester Metropolitan universities, both polytechnics until this summer, win places in the top ten for business and management. Several others rank in the top 15 for the seven subject groupings.

As in the overall ranking, which appeared yesterday, Oxford and Cambridge emerge as the top universities, taking the leading places for languages, science and the humanities. Manchester University and Imperial College, London, share top billing in science.

Oxford and Cambridge are bettered in engineering, medicine and social sciences by Imperial, University College, London and the London School of Economics. For business and management, Warwick, Lancaster and Bradford universities come out on top.

David Harrison, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, and John Stoddart, chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said in an open letter to *The Times*: "We believe the tables are wrong in principle, flawed in execution and constructed upon data which are not uniform, are ill-defined, and in places demonstrably false."

University guide, page 16

I say, spod, did you get a Patty Hearst?

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TO KNOW the difference between a "Desmond" and a "Douglas" or a "spod" and a "boatie" may not be an obvious sign of academic excellence, but in Oxford colleges it can mark out the old hand from the novice. Students have now published a guide to university jargon to help freshmen with the arcane mysteries of "Oxfordpeak".

The glossary, which appears in the student union's freshmen's guide, explains that a "Desmond" is a lower second class degree or 2.2, named after Desmond Tutu, while a "Douglas" is a third, in honour of Cambridge graduate Douglas Hurd. For the "spod", the library-bound bookworm, the highest accolade that Oxford can offer is a Patty Hearst: a first.

On the other side of the athletic fence to the spod is the "boatie", the rowing fanatic who arrives on the towpath at about the same time that rugby enthusiasts, or "rugger-buggers", are getting to bed after a night on the tiles. Female freshmen are also warned of "rugger-buggers' lascivious attentions, or 'sharking'".

Almost every form of activity, or inactivity, practised by the Oxford student has a

place in this obscure lexicon. Keen actors are "thesps", while "vegging" describes the semi-animate undergraduate sitting around in the junior common room.

Emma Carmel, editor of the booklet, said it was intended to "steer away some of the Oxford myth and give freshmen 'a flavour of what life is really like in this myth-laden institution'".

"What kind of people might you meet, what might their attitudes be, will you be able to understand one word in ten of Oxfordpeak? Fitting in is very important when you are new. We hope we've given the freshmen a sense of Oxford and its atmosphere."

Jargon is one of the few ingredients in college life not included in today's Good Universities Guide in *The Times*, but university-watchers have often remarked that Oxford leads the field in obscure terminology.

Geoffrey Skelsey, assistant registrar at Cambridge University, said that Oxford had more jargon than Cambridge. "People talk about 'the High' to mean the High Street and the House to mean Christ Church," he said.

University Guide, page 16

NEW PREMIUM XTRA. BECAUSE BIG INVESTORS SHOULD THINK BIG.



There aren't many things bigger than new Halifax Premium Xtra.

It's for investors who want not only a high return, but the greatest possible security as well.

To open an account, you need a minimum investment of £10,000. The bigger the balance, the higher the return. With the highest rate of all for balances over £100,000.

What's more, if you leave your capital untouched for a year, we'll add a bonus of 0.25%

gross to your account. On a balance of £100,000, that would currently yield a total of 9.6% gross p.a. on your investment.

Premium Xtra offers you other advantages.

NEW PREMIUM XTRA FOR A BIG RETURN OF UP TO

9.6%

GROSS P.A. INCLUDING BONUS.

HALFAX

Get a little extra help.

There's a monthly income option, for example. Plus the facility of one withdrawal of up to £5,000 every month without any notice or loss of interest.

And the peace of mind that comes from investing with not just any building society, but the biggest building society in the world.

If you would like more details of Premium Xtra, phone us free on 0800 500 235 or call into your nearest Halifax branch.

You can be sure of a very big welcome indeed.

*PROVIDING THE BALANCE REMAINING IS AT LEAST £10,000. OTHER WITHDRAWALS CAN BE MADE BY GIVING 90 DAYS NOTICE WITHOUT LOSS OF INTEREST, OR IMMEDIATELY SUBJECT TO LOSS OF AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO 90 DAYS' INTEREST ON THE AMOUNT WITHDRAWN. THE ABOVE RATE INCLUDES A BONUS, CALCULATED ON THE BALANCE AT THE END OF EACH DAY, WHICH IS ADDED TO THE ACCOUNT ON EACH ANNIVERSARY OF ACCOUNT OPENING. IF NO WITHDRAWALS EXCEEDING MONTHLY INTEREST OR LESS STANDING ORDER PAYMENTS ARE MADE DURING THE PRECEDING 12 MONTHS, INTEREST IS ADDED TO THE ACCOUNT ANNUALLY AND WILL BE PAID NET OF BASIC RATE INCOME TAX. (CURRENTLY 25%) OR GROSS ON RECEIPT OF THE REQUIRED DECLARATION FORM. INTEREST RATES ARE VARIABLE. FULL DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY BRANCH OFFICE OR FROM HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE HX1 2EG.

John Caldwell

Doctors identify victims of hidden smoking epidemic

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL admissions of children under five could be cut by 17,000 if they were not exposed to their parents' smoking, researchers said yesterday as the Health Education Authority published figures showing that nearly one in two of the population was exposed to other people's smoke.

Half the households in Britain contain at least one smoker and four million children aged ten or under live with a mother or father who smokes, the figures show. Evidence is growing that children who live in smoking households are shorter and have reduced in-

telligence, have smaller airways in their lungs and suffer more asthma and respiratory infections, doctors said.

Dr Ann McNeill, smoking education manager at the authority, said the figures were the first to show the extent of the "hidden smoking epidemic". The proportion of parents smoking is lowest in the South East at 42 per cent and highest in Wales at 58 per cent. "Throughout life, from conception to adulthood, one in every two people in the UK is exposed to passive smoking in the home," she said.

Dr Warren Lennay, consultant paediatrician at the Royal

Alexandra Hospital in Brighton, said that the ill-effects of smoking were greatest during pregnancy, probably because of the effects of nicotine on the growing lung and on the developing immune system. Babies of smoking mothers had a higher risk of miscarriage, were more likely to be born prematurely and were smaller. Estimates in the United States suggest that if mothers did not smoke, 8.5 per cent of the budget for the hospital care of new-born babies would be saved, he said.

He cited research showing that up to a quarter of cot deaths might be linked with

smoking. Allergies are five times more common among children of smokers and cases of glue ear are 30 per cent more common.

National figures show that among adults one in six deaths is attributable to smoking but in some northern areas, the figure rises to one in four. At launches in London, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh yesterday, the authority published details of death rates and hospital costs for smoking for each UK and European parliamentary constituency in nine volumes entitled *The Smoking Epidemic—A Manifesto for Action*.

Worst constituency in the country is Knowsley North, near Liverpool, where 161 of the 674 deaths a year are estimated to be related to smoking, 23.8 per cent of the total. Nine out of the ten worst constituencies in the country are in the north. The exception is Newham South in east London which is eighth worst.

Maidstone has the lowest proportion of smoking related deaths at 13.1 per cent followed by Exeter with 13.2 per cent. Low death rates were also recorded in Orkney and Shetland and northern Scotland.

Dr McNeill said that even in Maidstone one in eight people died from smoking and the constituency spent more than half a million pounds a year on treating people with smoking related diseases using 12 hospital beds daily. In Knowsley north the cost was nearly £700,000 and 15 beds were used daily. "These figures show the drain the smoking epidemic is having on resources in the health service," she said.

Donald Reid, head of programmes at the authority, said that the government's target of reducing the proportion of adults who smoke from the current 30 per cent to 20 per cent by 2,000, as set out in the Health of the Nation white paper, would not be achievable without a ban on tobacco advertising. "On present trends we will only be down to 23 per cent by 2,000 and will have missed the target by quite a margin," he said.



Facing the future: Peter Worth, director of the Butterfly and Falconry Park at Long Sutton, Lincolnshire, with a Priamus birdwing butterfly, one of four that are the first to be hatched in Britain, as part of a conservation scheme. The park has received ten chrysalides from Papua New Guinea, the only place the butterfly breeds

Vase thieves left replicas

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES who escaped with two seventeenth century Japanese vases worth £100,000 from a mantlepiece at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, in County Durham, left cheaper 19th century imitations in their place.

Elizabeth Conran, the director of the museum, said: "It was a very clever theft. The thieves managed to

diddle our security systems." The 15-inch high Kakiemon vases turned up on the London market where they were bought by the dealers Spink & Son. When a museum expert recognised them and suggested their true origin, Spink handed them back to the museum, leaving itself out of pocket. Now the company is in dispute with

the Edinburgh dealer from whom it bought the vases. According to English law, right of title remains with the original owner, even when the object repeatedly changes hands.

Oliver Impey, a curator at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, told how Richard Barker, then an expert at Spink, had proudly produced pictures of their new vases. "We were just thinking how wonderful they were, when I noticed how damaged they were and said they looked remarkably like the ones in the Bowes Museum."

Superficially, the vases resembled some examples at Hampton Court palace, but they were particularly rare because of their enamel colouring, he said.

Kakiemon wear is named after a 17th century maker, Kakiemon I Sakaida, and features paintings of birds and flowers on a white background.

The situation would have been different if the vases had been taken abroad. Title for stolen goods can pass to the purchaser in some countries, including Japan.



Back on show: the vases at the Bowes Museum

Confused GPs fail menopausal women

By LIN JENKINS

DOCTORS are failing women wanting treatment for problems associated with the menopause, according to a survey published yesterday. Many are confused about hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and make decisions based on out of date information, leading to some potentially dangerous prescriptions.

The survey, conducted among 3,000 women by the Amarant Trust, a charity devoted to promoting greater understanding of the menopause and HRT, found that eight out of ten women being treated by GPs felt that their initial consultation was not long enough for all their questions about the therapy to be answered. Those being

treated in hospital clinics fared better. Patients being prescribed HRT for the first time by their GP spent an average seven minutes in the surgery compared with 35 minutes in hospital clinics.

The survey found that GPs were reluctant to prescribe different treatments to those suffering side-effects on one course. Of those who stopped receiving HRT after less than six months 92.5 per cent had tried only one treatment. Among this group 89.8 per cent were treated by GPs.

Of the nine million women in the post-50 age group between 8 and 10 per cent are thought to receive HRT. In the short term it is prescribed to reduce the symptoms of the

menopause, such as hot flushes and night sweats, and in the long term it protects against cardio-vascular disease and brittle bones.

The survey also found that some GPs prescribed the hormone oestrogen to women who had not had a hysterectomy, a practice the charity would question, believing that such women should also receive another hormone to avoid the risk of cancer.

The survey concluded that there was a risk that not enough was done to counsel women about the possible side effects of HRT in the short term, such as fluid retention, breast tenderness and leg cramps. Nor was there a willingness to try different

courses of treatments if a patient found the first prescribed did not suit.

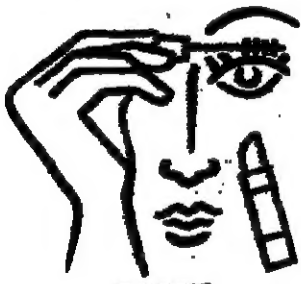
Dr Val Godfre, the trust's deputy medical director, said: "Like any medicine HRT can cause side-effects in some women, but it does come in a range of different types." HRT can be taken in tablets, skin patches and implants.

British nurses enjoy their jobs but feel they are overworked and badly paid, according to an independent survey published yesterday, the first to look at the working lives of nurses since the National Health Service Reforms of 1991.

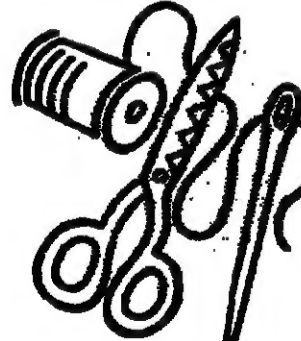
Body & Mind, page 15



LLOYDS



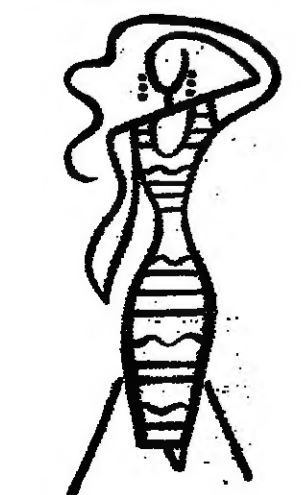
BANK



FASHION



SPONSORSHIP



From rags to ruches.

There's gold in them thar frills.

Because to win an award can really mean a great deal, even to a successful fashion designer.

And last night saw the announcement of the Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards, which were being held in association with the British Fashion Council.

There were eight categories, from the budget conscious "More Dash than Cash", to the prestigious Designer of the Year Award.

The ceremony took place at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, in the presence of HRH The Duchess of Kent.

And tonight the highlights are scheduled to be shown on BBC-1 at 8.00pm, in a half-hour special.

The winners won't just be ruche, they'll be famous.



Lloyds Bank

FASHION SPONSORSHIP

LIMITED OFFER

OUR LOWEST FIXED RATE MORTGAGE EVER!

8.49% 10.3% APR. FIXED RATE MORTGAGE FROZEN UNTIL NOVEMBER 1994

Phone **0800 555 100**, 9am – 9pm, Mon – Fri, quoting ref. S97 or visit a branch to take advantage of this offer.



The habit of a lifetime

This offer may be withdrawn at any time. Completion must be before 31.03.93. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on your property and in the case of an endowment mortgage an endowment/life policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under 18. Written quotations available on request. APR is typical and variable. Rates correct at time of going to press. Minimum advance £15,001. Conditions of offer available on request.

Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON
A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

John Smith

Hardliners in Peking bar the road to reform

China is holding its first party congress since the fall of world communism and the Tiananmen killings but the mandarins schooled by Mao still rule out democracy

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA'S Communist party faithful arrived at the Great Hall of the People in Peking yesterday to meet in congress for the first time in five years and to hear the message that capitalism is all right, up to a point, but democracy is not.

This is the first party congress since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations of 1989 and the collapse of most of the communist world. It would have been a good chance to get to grips with political reform, but instead of reacting to a changing domestic and international situation, Jiang Zemin, the party leader, opted for the head-in-the-sand approach. In his keynote speech to the congress, his comments on political reform were brief and to the point.

"The goal of this reform is to build a socialist democracy suited to Chinese conditions and absolutely not a Western, multiparty, parliamentary system," he said. In his two-hour address, Mr Jiang did urge the implementation of what he called the "socialist market economy". He listed reforms, including freeing prices, making state industry more efficient, keeping government out of enterprise management and experimenting with shareholding. But these measures do not appear to go much further, if at all, than China has gone before and hardly constitute the "new revolution" he referred to in his speech.

The compromises implicit in Mr Jiang's speech suggest that hardliners have toned down Deng Xiaoping's vision of radical economic reform. In January, Mr Deng — who failed to appear at the congress opening — suggested that anything could be done with the economy as long as it benefited the country and the party remained in control. Mr Jiang added another condi-

tion yesterday by saying that public ownership must continue to be the dominant feature of the economy.

Mr Jiang issued a warning: "We must be aware that the market has its own weaknesses and negative aspects." He said that the state plan was an important means of macro-control. Before the congress, some Chinese economists had been hoping that Mr Jiang would drop the word "socialist" from the phrase "socialist market economy", but it has become clear in the past few weeks that hardliners would not accept that. The *China Daily* newspaper yesterday, however, quoted an official as saying that even the phrase "socialist market economy" was regarded by some hardliners as too radical.

Mr Jiang concluded: "We are convinced that a market economy established under the socialist system can and should operate better than one under the capitalist system." His speech was broadcast live over loudspeakers to surprised Chinese tourists who had come to admire the lower decorations in Tiananmen Square. They found the area cordoned off by police.

True devotees of the communist road are so rare now that the organisers of the party congress were eager to preserve the delegates outside the Great Hall of the People, a fire engine and three ambulances were parked ready for just about any eventuality.

More than 2,000 delegates gathered inside the hall, many of them very old. Three ancient delegates died after being elected, so the number of official delegates which should have been 1,992, in accordance with the date, was reduced to 1,989, an embarrassing reminder of the year party leaders sent the army to fire on demonstrators.

De Klerk tries to win over white doubters

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN CAPE TOWN

THE gap between what the African National Congress wants and what the white government of South Africa wants to give them was made plain yesterday.

President de Klerk, addressing a joint session of the old tricameral parliament, spelt out what he wants to see agreed before a transitional government can be put in place. He was essentially talking to the doubters in his party and trying to rally those whites who feel already that he has given away too much to the ANC.

Amid heckling from the opposition benches, he insisted that, although "important progress has been made" in settling the constitutional issues for the new South Africa, much has to be done. "We say that agreement has to be reached in advance on the following important matters," he told legislators. He listed a strong and entrenched regional government coupled with adequate sources of revenue, a

bicameral central parliament with a senate able to protect regional issues, and the subordination of legislation to a written constitution and bill of fundamental rights. While the president spoke, representa-

tives of the voteless majority stood outside and made it clear how little they were impressed. "A bald man is going to stand up in the place they call parliament," Joe Slovo, leader of the South

African Communist Party, told 5,000 demonstrators. "He only represents the people who are the same colour as the top of his head." Mr Slovo is also the same colour as Mr de Klerk's head. Mr Slovo, stand-

ing in front of an equestrian statue of General Louis Botha, a dynamic young general of the Boer war and later prime minister of the union, described the present leader of the country as a "Mr Jekyll

and Dr Hyde" who is all sweet reason across a negotiating table, but "when he meets his tribe, when he meets the faithful of the National party, he begins to speak like a platteland (rural) politician".



Under instruction: children peer between the legs of ANC members at a mock trial of President de Klerk in Carltonville, near Johannesburg



Deng pays bitter price for miracles

FROM JAMES PRINGLE, FAR EAST CORRESPONDENT

The first time I saw Deng Xiaoping was at a state reception in Peking's Great Hall of the People in 1973. The Chinese leaders were coming down the diplomatic receiving line in the usual pecking order when I spotted a pint-sized man in a brown Mao suit, sandals and white socks at a distant Number 12 in the line-up.

"That is Deng Xiaoping," said the official at my side. "His errors were those that occur among the people, not those that occur between the people and the enemy." As the leaders took their seats at the top table, I sped past them to cable that the "Number Two person in authority taking the capitalist road" had been rehabilitated. (The Number One person, former head of state, Liu Shaoqi, was already dead from deliberate lack of medical attention on Chairman Mao's orders.)

Deng's sudden reappearance seemed a good augury at the time, in the later years of the Cultural Revolution. He looked a harmless, amiable old buffer, with his chain-smoking and enthusiasm for bridge. Little did one suspect that he could be as ruthless as Mao himself.

The fact that Deng was a lot tougher than he seemed was reinforced for me after the Tiananmen Square killings in June, 1989. I arrived the day after and saw, to my astonishment, troops who had the same mien and manner as the Khmer Rouge marching in loose formation along Peking's Avenue of Eternal Peace, firing up at the flats of foreign diplomats and at joint venture hotels. There was never any question in my mind but that Deng had ordered the troops out — and to shoot — to retain his vision of China's economic reform under the iron grip of the Chinese Communist Party.



Ruthless leader: Deng Xiaoping

It would have been hard to believe, that day in 1973, that 19 years later an 88-year-old Deng would still be leading the party at its 14th Congress, which opened yesterday.

Deng had appeared to be in eclipse, but just as the Great Helmsman launched the Cultural Revolution by going to Shanghai and giving the order to "bombard the headquarters", so Deng had to proceed to the Shenzhen special economic zone early this year to put China back on the road to economic reform. It is a reform that, having given the Chinese a taste of the good life, may have saved the party's bacon despite the demise of communism in the Soviet Union.

He cannot feel much satisfaction as he follows the deliberations at this congress: he has performed economic miracles, but at what price?

There is still an enormous gulag, the blood of many of its youth has been spilt, there is a huge diaspora of its best and brightest, and China which, with the retreat of American military power in Asia, is flexing its regional muscles. It is not a scenario that evokes admiration a sense of well-being in places like Hong Kong, soon to return to the motherland.

Revisit America. Free.

When you're in America on business, have you ever wondered what it would be like to be off-duty? Free to explore the Land of the Free as it were. Virgin Atlantic would like to give you that opportunity, free.

Simply book yourself a return flight on Upper Class, our award winning business class before March 31st 1993 and we'll now issue you a free confirmable Economy Class ticket to any of our US destinations. This ticket is bookable at any time* for you, a friend or relative to use at a later date.

Of course, you probably don't need any such inducement to sample

the service that has consistently been voted 'Best Business Class across the Atlantic.' The free limousine transfers, six-channel arm-rest T.V.s, fully reclining sleeper seats and guest dishes by Raymond Blanc should be sufficient to persuade you to fly us to New York (JFK - Newark), Miami, Boston, Orlando, L.A. and Tokyo.

But if our offer to take you back takes your fancy call 0345 747 747 for

full details and your free ticket pack.

*Free ticket offer is only applicable to first trip before March 31st 1993 and is subject to availability.

The Freeway to the USA

UpperClass



atlantic

EC officials confirm secret treaty for a two-speed Europe

Manoeuvring ahead of the summit may resolve the problems of Maastricht, but secret deals could lead to a new kind of treaty

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND SHEILA GUNN IN LONDON

OFFICIALS of the European Commission last night confirmed yesterday's report in *The Times* that a secret draft of a second Maastricht treaty had been prepared in case the present version fails to be ratified by all 12 EC states.

The officials said that the work was "unofficial, long-range thinking" and was part of an examination of the EC's future options organised after the rejection of the treaty in Denmark's referendum last June.

The Commission's spokesman denied the report, calling it a "fantasy". Denials, which were also issued in Paris and Bonn, that such a contingency plan is official policy of the

Commission or any EC government reflect alarm that speculation about plans for "two-speed" Europe could complicate ratification of the existing treaty.

Other officials acknowledged that a small number of Commission officials, in close contact with like-minded colleagues in the French and German governments, had drafted a "Maastricht II". One official said that "every-one" was trying to answer the question: "What if the treaty fails to pass?" The French and German leaders and Jacques Delors, the Commission president, are genuinely committed to seeing the document, agreed unchanged last year at

Maastricht, ratified by all 12 countries. But their officials have been preparing for the possibility of failure in one or more states.

The most ambitious element of this contingency planning would alter the present method for changing the Community's treaty or constitution. At present, the treaty can only be revised with the consent of all 12 states, a requirement that may not be met if the document fails to be ratified either in the House of Commons or in a second referendum in Denmark.

The new treaty adopts a ratification procedure used to put West Germany's constitution into force in 1949. Each of Germany's 11 regional parliaments was asked to ratify the draft constitution but it would go into force as soon as two thirds had approved it. Only Bavaria objected, and was forced to fall into line.

Making treaty changes by majority vote in the EC, which would amount to a revolutionary shift of power away from individual states, would satisfy the impatience of the officials in the Commission and elsewhere who feel that European union is forced to happen at the speed of the slowest EC states, because treaty changes can only be made unanimously. But such a radical change is unlikely to happen, since national vetoes are valued by most states. Smaller countries, already fearful that their influence is shrinking, would be unlikely to agree to surrender the power they hold under the present treaty.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, accepted yesterday that some EC officials could be secretly drawing up a post-Maastricht treaty for an inner power bloc. Questioned by MPs about yesterday's report in *The Times*, Mr Hurd insisted that while he believed French, German and EC leaders were "not interested" in forming a fast-speed Europe, he could not rule out the possibility that some officials were "chatting" about the formation of a mini-Europe if the Maastricht treaty is not ratified.

Mr Hurd, giving evidence to an emergency hearing of the Commons foreign affairs committee, issued a warning against the "unreal expectations" for Friday's summit in Birmingham on changes to the exchange-rate mechanism and additions to the treaty. Puffed in opposite directions by furious farmers and its European partners, the French government reached out yesterday for German help to avert a crisis over the world trade agreement at the summit. American and EC negotiators talked for several hours in Brussels without any sign of a significant shift on the farm subsidy deadlock.

Hurd warning, page 1

Gorbachev ban is explained to Hurd

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANDREI KOZYREV, the Russian foreign minister, said yesterday that he had held a "frank discussion" with the British government concerning Russia's treatment of Mikhail Gorbachev, the former president.

He said no exemption could or would be made for anyone asked to testify to the constitutional court now examining the ban on the Communist party. "The situation itself is a source of disappointment and sadness for me personally," Mr Kozyrev said. "I talked to Mr Gorbachev and I tried to explain to him that he had supported the perestroika effort for the precise reason to have at some stage an authority such as the constitutional court."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said people in Britain were concerned because of their interest in freedom of travel as a principle and because of Mr Gorbachev's past contributions. Several European Community countries have openly criticised the confiscation of the building housing Mr Gorbachev's foundation and the ban on foreign travel that has been imposed on him.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has let it be known that he would like Mr Gorbachev to attend the funeral of Willy Brandt, the former chancellor. Britain has not voiced any public concern, but officials said that they were watching the developments in Moscow.

Mr Kozyrev, on a one-day visit to Britain, had talks with Mr Hurd on the arrangements for the visit here of President Yeltsin, who is due at the end of next month. He also expressed Moscow's concern at the continued fighting in former Yugoslavia, discussed the Middle East peace negotiations and briefed the

British government on the conflicts now raging on Russia's southern borders.

The Russians have been piqued but not surprised at the widespread criticism of President Yeltsin's actions against Mr Gorbachev. They insist that they are not treating him as a post-Soviet dissident. British officials say they have to tread delicately, recognising the issue as an internal one for the Russian government. Britain also wants to support the Russian leader in his uphill struggle to push through his reforms.

John Major and Mr Hurd thanked Mr Kozyrev for the Russians' consular help in visiting Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride, the two Britons sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in Baghdad for straying across the Kuwaiti border into Iraq. Yesterday the Foreign Office summoned Zuhair Ibrahim, head of the Iraqi interests section in London, to demand a response to Britain's repeated requests for access to the two men and a review of their tough sentences. Mr Ibrahim was told that Britain regarded the sentences as disproportionately severe.



Kozyrev: no exemptions for constitutional court



Two of kind: Pierre Bérégovoy, the French prime minister, greets Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, in Bonn, where denials of a secret "contingency" Maastricht treaty were issued yesterday

Snub for Georgia's new leader

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN TELAVI

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE, the former Soviet foreign minister, emerged yesterday with a decisive personal mandate from Sunday's elections to the Georgian parliament and the de facto presidency.

Mr Shevardnadze, according to preliminary figures, won 90 per cent of the votes cast, three times the amount needed to secure the post of parliamentary chairman which carries presidential powers in all but name.

Voters ignored calls by supporters of the ousted president, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, to boycott the vote and have placed their faith in Mr Shevardnadze to avoid all-out war over the breakaway region of Abkhazia. But he received an early setback when President Yeltsin of Russia announced that he was pulling out of peace talks, scheduled to begin today, saying that the Russian side needed more time.

Mr Shevardnadze had said that the meeting would clarify the reasons for the failure of an earlier ceasefire in Abkhazia and hoped that it would avert an escalation of the conflict.

He blamed headline Russian generals for allowing mountain tribes to join the Abkhazian forces in the fighting against Georgia and supplying them with weapons, and hinted that Mr Yeltsin's insistence that the Russian government did not approve of such actions was dishonest.

Serbs boycott peace talks in Zagreb with 'brutal' Croats

By TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Serbian government refused yesterday to participate in key Croatian-Yugoslav talks in Zagreb. The talks are the first substantive negotiations to take place on the territory of former Yugoslavia this year.

In an undisguised attack on Milan Panic, prime minister of the rump Yugoslavia, the Serbian government said in a statement: "The government of Serbia cannot participate in the Zagreb talks while the Croatian authorities continue to persecute and brutalise the Serbs." It added that Croatia

wanted to reduce the rights of the Serbs in the republic to those of refugees and that Croatian troops were still fighting in Bosnia. It concluded that Serbia "deplored the fact that the federal government overlooks this", thus weakening "Yugoslavia's negotiating position".

Talks on demilitarising Sarajevo failed no better as Bosnian Muslims refused to attend talks sponsored by the United Nations between the warring sides. The Bosnians said that they were boycotting

the talks, the first since June, because Serb forces were renegeing on a commitment to allow the UN to escort engineers to repair water and electricity installations damaged by the war.

In Geneva, Fred Eckhardt, a UN spokesman, said that 90 per cent of repair missions had to be abandoned because of "attacks by one party or the other". He added that attempts were being made to get the talks going.

Last week's summit in Morillon, the UN commander in Sarajevo, reminded the fighters that, if they failed to honour commitments about restoring power and water, they would be contributing to the deaths of up to 400,000 people in Bosnia this winter.

After air raids by the Bosnian Serbs on Gradacac on Friday and Saturday, it was announced in Geneva that agreement had been reached on the stationing of international observers at air bases in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. However, the accord does not affect Banja Luka air base, where Bosnian Serbs have been flying missions in planes given to them by the Yugoslav air force.

In Serbia's southern province of Kosovo, tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians held peaceful protests demanding the reopening of Albanian language classes. Albanians make up more than 90 per cent of the province's population and a violent conflict has long been expected there.

Macedonia pursues aid and recognition

By MICHAEL BINYON

KIRO GILIGOROV, the president of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, arrives here tomorrow for two days of talks expected to centre on his country's economic difficulties, the influx of Bosnian refugees and the continued refusal of the European Community to recognise the republic under the name of Macedonia.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, during his visit to Skopje in July, promised to lobby his EC partners for emergency aid to help the republic cope with 100,000 refugees and the crippling effects of the sanctions against Serbia. Britain has sent a diplomatic mediator to try to

resolve the impasse over recognition of Macedonia, but the summit in Birmingham on Friday is unlikely to reverse the Lisbon summit's decision on non-recognition.

Greek officials say they cannot take the issue before any international court but the government has support from all parties for its tough line over Macedonia. In northern Greece the issue has revived memories of the civil war and the fight against the communists, many of them based in Yugoslavia and backed by Tito. Greece accuses President Gligorov's government of pandering to nationalists.

Leading article, page 19

P2 chiefs come to trial after 11 years

Rome: The trial of Licio Gelli and other leading members of the P2 masonic lodge on charges of political conspiracy opened yesterday after an 11-year investigation (Philip Willan writes).

Signor Gelli, head of the now illegal lodge which included politicians, magistrates and military officers, is charged with possession of documents covered by state secrecy. According to Francesco Monastero, the examining magistrate, Signor Gelli and Umberto Ortolani, the financial brain behind P2, were able to act as trustees in financial transactions "because of their political power resulting from the possession of sensitive information".

Observers said the trial could mark the end of an era of impunity for influential political lobbies that long were able to exercise power without responsibility. Members of P2 have been accused of involvement in the right-wing coup plots common in the 1970s.

Missiles threat

Moscow: Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the Commander in Chief of the Soviet Strategic command head, said he would cut equipment supplies for inter-continental missiles in Ukraine if Kiev and Moscow fail to reach agreement on the weapons' future.

Hostel bombed

Rome: A bomb exploded outside a house for asylum-seekers in Kolbermoor, Bavaria. This is believed to be the first time that explosives have been used in the present campaign of terror against refugees. No body was hurt.

Ship boarded

Moscow: A Russian coast-guard vessel fired across the bow of a Greenpeace ship whose crew was planning to conduct radiation tests off the north Russian coast. The ship was boarded and searched by Russian coastguards.

Hesari wins

Bucharest: President Iliescu of Romania, a former top communist official, has been re-elected with an almost two-thirds majority in a ballot described as democratic and free. Emil Constantinescu, of the Democratic Convention, got 39.5 per cent. (Reuters)

Nuclear deal

Washington: Iran has been negotiating secretly to buy nuclear warheads from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, and a deal may have been struck already, according to a Washington Post report that cited senior American officials. (Reuters)

Resign call

Tokyo: Taku Yamazaki, Japan's construction minister, has called for the resignation of Shin Kanemaru, the ruling Liberal Democratic party's "kingmaker", who controls the party's biggest faction and has admitted accepting illegal political gifts. (Reuters)

Unita gives warning of war

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LUANDA

FORMER rebels yesterday pushed up the stakes in Angola's political crisis, threatening "immediate war" if results are published from last month's elections.

Elias Salupeto Pena, an official of Jonas Savimbi's Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita), called for the country's first multiparty election to be annulled, repeating the group's claims of vote fraud. "The situation is so grave we cannot imagine the publication of such fraudulent results because this will mean immediate war," he said.

His threat came a day after Unita soldiers sprayed part of central Luanda with machine-gun fire, mortar shells and grenades after a bomb shattered windows in an hotel the group used. Two Unita men were injured in a shooting.

Election officials have delayed publication of the results to allow time to investigate Unita's claims, but they are expected to announce the winner this week. Partial results released last week showed President dos Santos and his MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) party ahead of Unita.

Amazon produces a monkey puzzle for scientists

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A NEW species of monkey, small enough to slip into a raincoat pocket, has been discovered in the Amazon forest, scientists are claiming. The monkey, which has a face like a koala and sports faint stripes, has been named *Maues marmoset* after its discovery by Marco Schwarz, a Swiss biologist, 800 miles upstream near the Maues river of the Amazon delta in Brazil.

The find, published yesterday in the Brazilian journal *Goeldiana*, brings the number of known monkey species to some 140, of which nine are marmosets.

Robert May, Royal Society research professor at Oxford University and Imperial College, London, said yesterday the *Maues marmoset* could be the last monkey species to be found. "Monkey species are very well known," he said. "A very good guess is that there are no more."

However, Caroline Harcourt, of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge, was sceptical. Several new species of monkey and related primates had been identified recently in remote and inaccessible parts of the globe, she said, citing the discovery eight years ago of the Suntila gibbon in

central Gabon and also the Golden Bamboo lemur in Madagascar.

This divergence of opinion highlights how, more than 200 years after the publication of *Systema Naturae* by the Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus, mankind's knowledge of the number of plant and animal species remains informed guesswork when compared with knowledge of the atom or human genetic codes.

Scientists may baffle over the exact number of monkey species, but attempts to calculate the total number of living species, including insects and micro-organisms, vary from just a few million up to 100 million.

Professor May puts the figure at five million. Around 1.5 million species have been identified which, even with this conservative figure, leaves up to 3.2 million awaiting discovery.

Most of the species catalogued have been found in accessible terrain and are of the furry, feathered or gossamer-winged variety beloved of Victorian naturalists armed with knapsacks and butterfly nets.

The challenge facing biologists is finding less cuddly and elusive life forms such as



Pocket-sized performer: the recently discovered marmoset has ears like a koala and zebra stripes

fungi, beetles or nematode worms living in small numbers in isolated parts of the globe. Studies by David Hawksworth, of the International Mycological Institute at Kew, indicate that, for instance, around 1.6 million species of fungi may exist, whereas scientists have recorded only 69,000.

"It is not that there are fewer people looking; I think there are more people than

ever. You do not get huge, long lists of new species, because those that are easy to find have been found," said Dr Harcourt.

One way to boost the collection of new species would be to increase funding for systematic biology and taxonomy. A recent report by the House of Lords select committee on science and technology noted that in a country with a proud history

of species-cataloguing, funding had been squeezed partly by a huge growth in rival biological fields, such as molecular biology, and partly by an inability of government and research councils to decide who should pay.

The committee has made a series of recommendations, including an additional £5 million over five years for an area of "humble research" with potentially spectacular results.

Many undiscovered species could harbour new medicines and crops, further knowledge on evolution and play critical roles in the planet's ecosystem at a time of rising concern over pollution.

However, Professor May believes extra funds are not the only answer. He says a redeployment of resources is also urgently needed, particularly given the accelerating rate of habitat destruction which estimates indicate could leave the globe denuded of its rainforests in 50 years.

Church begs Indians to forgive the past

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

INDIAN activists across Latin America and the Caribbean were grieving yesterday while others celebrated the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World.

The biggest protests were held in Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador where Indians still make up a large proportion of the population. Many official celebrations were toned down merely to commemorate the day Columbus landed on the island he named San Salvador in the modern Bahamas. Instead of talking of the "discovery of the Americas", official statements have adopted Spain's definition of the event as "a meeting of two worlds".

Catholic bishops in many countries asked their Indian populations to pardon the church for atrocities committed during the colonial era. The Catholic church in Bolivia decided not to take part in Columbus commemorations. The Pope, on a visit to the Dominican Republic, also expressed sorrow for the suffering of the Indians under colonial rule.

Bolivia and Guatemala are the two Latin American countries with the biggest Indian population. More than half Guatemala's 9.5 million in-

habitants are Indians of Mayan descent. The Aymara and Quechua Indians make up more than half Bolivia's population of six million.

At a conference of indigenous leaders from 26 countries in Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, delegates attacked "the voyage of destruction" and the failure of modern-day governments to respect the native cultures. "Columbus didn't discover America. He invaded it," read T-shirts on sale at the conference. A "wanted" poster portrayed a villainous-looking Columbus with the words: "A big thief, murderer, racist, torturer, oppressor of indigenous peoples and instigator of the big lie."

In south Florida's state-run schools, where both Spanish and English are spoken, teachers were encouraged to adopt a balanced approach to Columbus as part of a Hispanic heritage month.

Elsewhere protest was the dominant theme. Five hundred Indian runners completed a 14,000-mile run called a "voyage of discovery" when they converged on the ancient Aztec pyramids of Teotihuacan in Mexico. In Mexico City several thousand Indians demonstrated in front of the Church of Guadalupe.

Love can fill the emptiness in your life. We can fill the emptiness in your wallet.

UP TO
10.4%

Are you still searching for that special savings account to set your heart a flutter?

Then perhaps you should come and talk to us at Nationwide. We'll be delighted to fix you up with our new two year CapitalBond 92.

And naturally it will be wealth at first sight.

In fact, if you invest £3,000 we will currently pay you 8.80% gross p.a. (6.60% net p.a.).

While if you invest £50,000 or more, you'll receive the incredibly

attractive rate of 10.40% gross p.a. (7.80% net p.a.).

What's more, we guarantee to pay you a whole 2.00% above our variable £1 gross CashBuilder rate, no matter what may happen to the economy during the life of the Bond.

If you would like the rates on any of our other savings accounts, please call Freephone 0800 400 417. Or if you'd prefer visit your nearest Nationwide branch.

After all, with a full wallet you can look forward to a much fuller life.



The Nation's Building Society

Complete terms as follows: £3,000-£1,999: 8.80% gross p.a. (6.60% net p.a.); £5,000-£9,999: 9.80% gross p.a. (7.30% net p.a.); £10,000-£24,999: 10.80% gross p.a. (7.50% net p.a.); £25,000-£49,999: 10.20% gross p.a. (7.65% net p.a.); £50,000 and over: 10.40% gross p.a. (7.80% net p.a.). Interest will normally be paid at the net rate, after deduction of income tax at the basic rate, currently 25%. Interest may be paid at the gross rate in certain cases. All rates quoted are variable. Net rates have been rounded and are illustrative only. Correct at time of going to press. Interest paid annually. No part withdrawals and closure subject to 90 days' loss of interest. CapitalBond 92 is guaranteed to pay 3% gross p.a. over the £1 gross variable CashBuilder rate. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme, Investors Protection Scheme and conforms to the Code of Banking Practice. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide House, 136 High Holborn, London WC1N 6PW.

ONCE AGAIN, OUR ENGINEERS HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER CHALLENGING TERRAIN.



Johnnie

*AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION. LAND ROVER ADMINISTRATION

1100-
1000
The new R
wely on 1200
The 1200
larger making
Besides 3000
wheelbase 3000
a smoother ride
Under the 3000
develops an effective
It provides the
apid mid-range and
anks to the extens
On the 3000
veloped Electric
When you drive
or drops by twenty
(This is the wind
centre of gravity of
high-speed handling
Then when you
ly returns to the ma
Once at a stand
metres which make
surprisingly easier
Off-road you can
metres above norm
approach steeper
olders and waste thre
Finally whatever
engers and loads. M
ain level even when
Another major
tion Control which
very conditions. C
of them is startin
by momentarily
more power is
while the latter
to regain tra



To create a vehicle that can master truly hostile terrain is quite an achievement.

But to give that same vehicle the on-road characteristics of a luxury saloon is a real feat of automotive engineering.

The new Range Rover Vogue LSE performs as impressively on tarmac as it does on a mountain.

The first thing you'll notice is that it's eight inches longer, making it feel more like a limousine.

Besides giving rear passengers extra legroom, the longer wheelbase straddles uneven roads more effectively, creating a smoother ride.

Under the bonnet there's a new 4.2 litre engine which develops an effortless 200 brake horsepower.

It provides the car with enormous pulling capability and rapid mid-range acceleration, yet remains remarkably quiet thanks to the extensive sound damping.

On the dashboard, you'll find the controls for our newly developed Electronic Air Suspension.

When you drive at over 50mph, the entire body of the car drops by twenty millimetres.

(This is the width of a thumbnail, but when you lower the centre of gravity of a vehicle this size, the effect on ride and high-speed handling is astonishing.)

Then, when you return to under 35mph, the car automatically returns to normal height.

Once at a standstill, you can lower the body by sixty millimetres, which makes getting in and out and loading luggage surprisingly easier.

Off-road, you can raise the car by forty millimetres above normal height, allowing you to approach steeper slopes, traverse bigger boulders and wade through deeper water.

Finally, whatever the weight distribution of passengers and loads, the car will automatically remain level, even when towing.

Another major advance is Electronic Traction Control, which works in snow, slush, mud and other slippery conditions. Coupled to the rear wheels, it senses if either of them is starting to spin.

By momentarily applying the brake to the wheel that's spinning, more power is delivered to the wheel with the better grip. So while the latter continues to propel you, the former is allowed to regain traction.

In practice, the system operates so quickly and discreetly, you may not even notice, so we've installed an indicator light on the instrument panel.

(Alternatively, you can look out of the window to see if other vehicles are stranded.)

But what of the other, more tangible improvements? Take the seven-speaker sound system.

Instead of having to re-tune the radio when you drive from one transmitter area to the next, the receiver locks on to your station and re-tunes for you.

Furthermore, when you're listening to a cassette or a CD, the music can automatically be interrupted to bring you important traffic reports.

(A few seconds before such broadcasts, the BBC now transmits a signal, which the system detects.)

Other refinements include cruise control, a heated front windscreen which melts frost, and heated front seats.

The seats are adjustable electronically, while the driver's seat and heated wing mirrors even possess a memory, enabling them to return to your favoured alignment.

The interior is a calm, luxurious haven, upholstered in hand-stitched Connolly hide and complemented by Italian poplar veneer on the fascia, the doors, gear lever and electric window control panel.

Include air conditioning, door-mounted puddle-lamps and a security system that constantly changes its electronic code, and what more could you add? A chauffeur?



For further information fill in the coupon and post to: Land Rover, Freepost TK 494, Twickenham, TW2 5UN. Fax to: 081 894 3099.

TITLE _____ INITIALS _____
SURNAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____
TELEPHONE _____
CURRENT CAR (MAKE/MODEL) _____

THE NEW RANGE ROVER VOGUE LSE.

TS

SIDE LINE

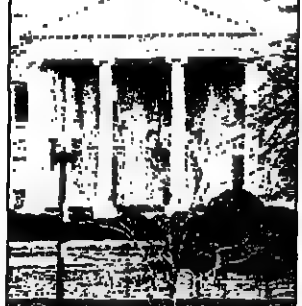
Paint on the burns

The White House celebrates its 200th anniversary today

To Charles Dickens it looked "like an English clubhouse". Harry S. Truman called it a "great white prison". But to most people it is simply known as the White House, and today officially marks the 200th anniversary of the laying of its first cornerstone. The anniversary is being celebrated with a stamp, exhibitions, lectures, films and a three-day symposium which begins today in Washington, DC.

The house was designed by an Irishman, James Hoban, and built by Scottish stonemasons.

In the war of 1812, the



White is right: the famous American landmark

Executive Mansion, as it was then called, was burnt down by the British and had to be almost completely rebuilt. White lead paint was applied to cover up the remaining smoke damage in 1817, and from that day forth it became known as the White House.

The 132-room house, with its 34 bathrooms, and 11 bedrooms, has provided a backdrop for some of the world's most decisive moments: the dropping of the atomic bomb in the second world war; the standoff between the US and the Soviet Union in 1962; and, more recently, the waging of Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

It is also where the third president of the US, Thomas Jefferson, played his fiddle, cultivated rare plants and taught his pet mockingbird to peck food from his lips.

But the White House is also a working building, the heart of the American presidency. George Bush runs his administration from the Oval Office and several hundred government officials work there.

Modern problems have led to some architectural compromises. The windows in the Oval Office are bullet proof and give the view a purple hue. And rumour has it that portable anti-aircraft missiles are hidden on the roof.

In two months' time a new administration will come into the White House and once again the scramble for the few, coveted offices overlooking the 16-acre estate will begin.

RENÉ RILEY-ADAMS

Anatole Kaletsky names the Treasury mandarins who promoted the policies that led to Britain's economic mess

RICHARD WILLSON

The guilty men behind Lamont

While Norman Lamont prepared to defend himself yesterday before the Commons treasury committee, a deluge of leaks flowed out of the Treasury, suggesting that the Chancellor had repeatedly ignored and over-ridden his officials' advice. The timing was probably no coincidence. For any serious enquiry into the causes and consequences of Britain's economic debacle should look far beyond the personal role of one politician and probe the responsibilities of the men who have stood behind successive Chancellors, not only writing their speeches but shaping all their ideas.

Regardless of who takes over from Mr Lamont as Chancellor, if the same people continue to run the Treasury and the Bank of England, similar mistakes will continue to be made. This prediction can be made with assurance for two reasons. Firstly, the style of the errors made by British economic policymakers since the early 1980s has been completely consistent, even though the consequences of these blunders have varied wildly, from extreme depression and unemployment to sudden bursts of inflation. That style has been to control one economic indicator — be it the sterling M3 figure, the public sector borrowing requirement or the exchange rate against the mark — to the exclusion of every other political, economic or industrial consideration.

Secondly, the institutional structures of the Treasury and the Bank of England, and all other government-sponsored economic institutions have been carefully shaped over the years to ensure that ministers are never exposed to anything but the official view.

The credit for this goes largely to the two men who have dominated the Treasury and the Bank of England for more than a decade: Sir Terence Burns, the permanent secretary of the Treasury; and Edward George, now deputy governor of the bank.

Both men of modest background, they swept through what used to be socially hidebound institutions and quickly won the attention of Margaret Thatcher. Nigel Lawson and John Major. They offered something far more attractive than unpretentious accents, down to earth approaches and a much-publicised love of sport.

At the bank, Eddie George was the man who supposedly "understood the markets". Mr George became a key figure to a government which consistently made the financial markets the judge and jury of its economic performance — first by targeting the money supply and exposing itself to the goodwill or otherwise of gilt-edged investors; then by lashing itself to an exchange-rate target in the exchange-rate mechanism. At the monthly meetings on monetary strategy held in the Chancellor's office, proposals for a cut in interest rates could be brought to a halt by a single sentence about market reaction from Mr George. Since the devaluation his view has become tougher than ever. He is now against rejoining the ERM, but because he wants to ease monetary policy. On the contrary, he would like to push the pound back up to DM2.95.

Mr George has had a dominant influence on economic policy in the two years since ERM entry and must bear a large part of the responsibility for the present recession. But before that Mr George was, to his credit, a dissenter. His was one of the lone voices raised within the Thatcher government in the mid-1980s against the excesses of the Lawson boom. Sir Terry can claim no such allibi.

Since he joined the Treasury in 1980, as chief economic adviser, he has been at the centre of every economic decision and every economic mistake. He introduced Mr Lawson to the idea of shadowing the mark, and thereby ignoring the inflation that was building up in the late 1980s. Before that, he was behind the monetary targets of the early 1980s and the theory that a large part of manufacturing industry had to be wiped out to "make room" for the extra output of North Sea oil.

All Sir Terry's ideas had one thing in common: a conviction that one "over-riding" objective should dominate government policy, even if the precise nature of this objective changed. One of the few avowed monetarists in the British academic world prior to 1980, Sir Terry brought to the Treasury a crusading zeal against the traditional Keynesian policymaking, with its ever-shifting priorities and its balancing of unemployment and growth against the balance of payments and inflation. The government had one clear duty — to stop inflation. And the way of doing that was equally clear — to keep the money supply under control.

Every other economic objective for which the government used to be considered responsible — to stimulate economic growth, manage the balance of payments or limit unemployment — was at best a waste of time and at worst counter-productive.

Sir Terry's specific mission from 1980 onwards was to instil monetarism into the Treasury's traditionally Keynesian economic modeling and policy thinking. He did this with remarkable success. Although the Treasury's forecasts became even less reliable in the 1980s than they had been in previous decades, the language in which Treasury officials and Chancellors spoke was rapidly transformed.

The one-dimensional view of the government's economic responsibilities has been the hallmark of every Chancellor's utterance since Sir Terry took over at the Treasury — first as chief economic adviser and then as permanent secretary early last year. The Treasury's means have varied greatly over the years — from sterling M3 targets to medium-term financial strategies and finally ERM membership. But the single-minded philosophy has always been the same and remains unchanged to this day, even after the devaluation.

As Mr Lamont made clear again yesterday to the treasury committee: "Monetary policy has one central objective — to control inflation. Growth and economic recovery are not appropriate objectives for interest rate policy." As long as Sir Terry remains in charge at the Treasury, neither the government's economic philosophy, nor its record of achievements is likely to change.



Nobel foolishness and fallen gurus

Today the 32nd winner of the Nobel prize in economics science will be announced. The name is always unpredictable, and frequently extremely interesting. But today's election comes at a significant time for the prize.

The past few days have seen co-events, one on each side of the Atlantic, which peg neatly to the distinguished list of laureates. The first event was the British government's "new" economic policy conference by Messrs Lamont and Major. The second was a manifesto, signed by 600 American economists, including nine Nobel winners, supporting candidate Clinton. This is rare political daring for American academics.

The laureates represent no less than half the formidable total of 18 American residents (some joint winners) who have ever won the economics prize. The 600 represent an intellectual constituency which has been out of Washington and out of influence for more than a decade since the election of Ronald Reagan. I doubt whether the government's "new" policy commands much respect among British economists, either.

Those who doubt whether economics Nobel prize winners can be

influential, need think only of two gentlemen who won their prizes in the 1970s, Friedrich von Hayek and Milton Friedman. In the mid-1970s, fuelled by the discontent of the up-market classes and ignited by the oil-price rises of 1973 and 1979, there was a massive reversal of policy fashions in favour

of what is generally known as monetarism, the effects of which are with us still today. Reagan and Thatcher were the high priests; Hayek and Friedman its prophets. Hayek received a Nobel prize at the age of 75 in 1974, Friedman at the age of 65 two years later.

They were quite unlike other economists, including other Nobel economists, because they were entirely single-minded. Most, even when they hold an opinion, aspire to scientific diffidence. They know they could be wrong (a trait which makes the pro-Clinton manifesto of the nine Americans especially significant). By contrast, so persuasive was Hayek (he had two basic

messages, "Democratic Socialism destroys democracy", and "Markets are marvellous") that it is said his works were kept under Mrs T's pillow. She was, of course, a politician who especially despised diffidence.

But the greater culprit was Friedman, an extremely intelligent person with a high reputation in technical economics. He based his new prophetic role on a piece of economic theory, called the Quantity Theory of Money, which in the opinion of myself and other economists, simply doesn't add up, and is, indeed, largely discredited by

events. Friedman advocated that if a government confined itself to a single means, the growth-rate of the money supply, there was no need for any other action. Inflation would be low and stable. Unemployment would automatically fall. Economic growth would naturally happen at a desirable rate.

As the King of Sweden handed Friedman his accolade for these dotty ideas, there were riots outside

the chamber. These were mainly due to the especially spectacular service Friedman was said to be giving to the then government of Chile. But in their citation the electors implicitly defended themselves on the grounds that whatever else one could say, as an economist, Friedman was uniquely influential.

Should the Nobel electors have given Friedman a prize just because he was influential (after the award a group of American laureates petitioned to have the prize abolished)? Are the nine laureates who have signed up for Clinton about to turn the tables?

The truth is that the Nobel electors believe they are concerned with the quality of science. But, given the nature of economics, they also like their scientists to be influential. Some economists believe that in the middle 1970s they overstepped the line between politics and science and also, perhaps, that they showed some political bias.

Of much greater concern to Europeans must be the increasing and more recently overwhelming preponderance of American winners, in all the sciences. (In economics alone 43 per cent of the winners were born in America and

59 per cent did their main prize work in that country of the last 15 winners, 73 per cent did their main prize work in America and most were born there.) Why is this? The first part of the answer is that the Americans win because they are the best. They have a large and rich economy, but so, as a whole, has Europe. The president of the Swedish Academy has pointed out that they also have the benefit of the organisation of American universities, which receive large amounts of public money for research, and spent it effectively. Appointments and promotion in these universities are made genuinely on merit, a merit judged exclusively by published research. The American vogue for "publish or perish" has been an enormous benefit to the human race.

Money and motivation, motivation and money. The British system has the motivation, but does not have the money. On the Continent they sometimes have more money, but they have far too much security of tenure, and far too many other distractions. Think on, MacDuff.

ROBIN MARRIS

● The author is emeritus professor of economics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Will the Nobel economics prize winner be American yet again?

Between the covers of the Booker Prize

Ben Okri reflects on a year as the Miss World of Bookdom

Last week's Nobel laureate for literature, Derek Walcott, greeted his award with the disarming declaration: "I'm shocked, I'm happy, and I'm rich." Ben Okri's £20,000 1991 Booker prize was hardly in the Nobel league (Walcott trousered a crisp £700,000, so proving, given the provenance of the respective awards, that gurus as ever have it a good way over butter), but "it was useful".

Literary prizes have always existed, but with the exception of the Nobel, it has taken the food distributors Booker McConnell to offer a succession of mere novelists the sort of exposure more usually associated with the winners of beauty contests.

The reason for this is television, which dragged what had been a somewhat rarefied event into the full glare of 1980s merchandising. Say it not in the Groucho, but the Booker razzmatazz proves that, in lit crit as elsewhere, it is the surface that counts. Come the awards night, it's all glitz and glamour: *Le tour literary London en fête*, the lights, the cameras, the lip gloss... Well, maybe not the lip gloss, nor indeed the swimsuits, and on the whole, the half dozen hopefuls don't have to vouchsafe their fascination with

animal rights, but the whole parade does smack somewhat of Miss World.

Certainly the winner, as Okri recalls, enjoys a similar state of suspended normality. "I didn't know I'd won when I arrived at the dinner. They do arrange it so that you know, but in my case I didn't. There was a slight cock-up. They're supposed to give you a copy of your book with the announcement, but they gave me Timothy Mo's book, and gave my book to Timothy Mo. It was very strange, but it worked out beautifully, because if I'd known, I'd have made a complete fool of myself. In the event, it was just a mild foot."

The winner does not have cry, nor to kiss the runners-up, the conspers, or anyone else. But there remains the task of toasting to the podium, there to deliver a speech. "You have to say something. You're as gracious as you feel, and you're as honest as your state of mind is at that moment. I felt that I had been kicked into a dream. I'd stepped into unreality, and in some ways, I still haven't quite stepped out."

"The Okri Law of Recent Celebrity is that the unreality tends to linger. Everyone lives with the slight feeling that perhaps one day life might be good enough to afford them a



Unreality lingers: tonight Ben Okri, the 1991 winner, will hand over his crown

little fairy tale. So when that fairy tale does happen, it instigates itself into your reality. For good or ill, it's always going to be there. For some people it's bad because it makes them a bit pompous or a bit stupid, for others, it makes them humbler and more generous, and more humane and more warm. I hope I fall into the latter group. If something good happens to you, it should make you a better person."

And the money helps. "I had a few awkward debts which I was able to pay off."

Some you spread and some you use to build a sensible foundation with which to carry on writing. The way I see it is that this prize is not meant to be the end of a journey, but the beginning. So you have to make sure that the car you're travelling in is in good order."

Celebrity is as much conferred as taken. "Writers are very solitary people, but at the same time, they're very resilient. They have to be. Aristotle put it perfectly: The person who can live with solitude is either a

god or a beast. The writer has to be a bit of both. And winning the Booker is another kind of solitude. There's a sort of loneliness there. And an incredible vulnerability."

Writers are notoriously fearful, and winning a big prize certainly helps. In the short run, anyway. "The first thing that happens is the uncertainty is taken away from you. The second thing is that your playfulness gets taken away; your wings are clipped, you get heavy, you get serious, you get can't flap your wings and see where they'll take you. Then

you get an attack of nerves. No one avoids that sort of attack."

The writer may not start believing the publishers' hype, but others do. "It increases the temperature of your own expectations, because of other people's expectations of you. So a feeling of being more solemn and more serious takes you over. And the company you now have to keep. Previous winners are people like V.S. Naipaul and William Golding. Whether you like it or not, you get put into that league."

And for more fleshly, less cerebral delight? The secret dreams of nascent winners? Those blissful pitfalls of fame, Okri, as book watchers will attest, is no rescue. "You do get invited to more parties, but I still only go the ones I feel more at home. As for the idea of girls rushing up to you, not necessarily girls aren't really interested in bookish types. And thank goodness for that. One doesn't want that, one would rather have a more interesting relationship with people."

Come tonight, Okri's reign will be over, his metaphorical crown handed on, the plaudits aimed elsewhere. He has no tips, but has placed a discreet wager. Last year's runner-up Timothy Mo did likewise. He won, it is rumoured, a good deal more than the man himself.

JONATHAN GREEN

Undergraduate MEng in Environmental & Earth Resources Engineering

IF YOU CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, WHY NOT BECOME ONE OF ITS ENGINEERS?

As environmental issues multiply, the need for professional engineers in this important field continues to increase. Imperial College, the UK's leading academic research and teaching institution for technologically based environmental management, is already recruiting.

We now offer a new 4-year MEng Honours Degree Course in Environmental and Earth Resources Engineering, covering such subjects as extraction and management of minerals, energy conservation, waste management and environmental

This will establish you as a highly respected and well rewarded European expert qualified to design, develop and manage solutions to a comprehensive range of environmental problems.

If you are ready to make a difference - to the environment, and to your own career - please write for entry requirements, detailed syllabus and further information to: Dr. Mike Smith,

Admissions Tutor, Department of Mineral Resources Engineering, Imperial College, South Kensington, London SW7 2BP, or telephone 071-589 5111 extn. 6467 or 6498.

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine



BOTTOM LINE

Bless you! It's flu time

The low-down on this year's virus

Barring a freak event, a flu epidemic is unlikely this winter. The viruses now active in the southern hemisphere, which are normally the source of the winter flu epidemics in Europe, are familiar strains to which the British population is likely to have wide immunity.

Because the flu virus mutates easily, it has the capacity to cause epidemics every year. As long as this "genetic drift" is only slight, those who succumbed last year will still have extensive immunity this year. But as the years pass and the drift progresses, immunity falls and the risk of catching the illness rises.

Three times this century the sea-urchin-like virus has undergone a dramatic change, giving it a fresh capacity to attack and reproduce itself in human cells. On each occasion — in 1918, 1957 and 1968 — the resulting epidemic has gone round the world. Millions have died.

Nobody can predict when the next big change to the virus will occur. Only three main varieties infect humans, but another ten are known to infect birds, pigs and horses. Occasionally the virus can be transmitted from man to ani-



mal and vice versa, and it is thought that when two strains of the virus mix in this way a major mutation is possible.

Vaccination against flu is only 70 per cent effective, even when matched precisely against the strain of virus. This is a much lower success rate than for vaccines against other diseases. Vaccination is not necessary for healthy people. It is recommended for anyone with lung conditions, such as asthma or bronchitis, heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes and those on immuno-suppressive drugs.

Flu involves aches and pains, usually accompanied by fever, that come on suddenly and bring an undeniable urge to lie down. A cold brings on a runny nose, sneezing, a frontal headache but rarely any fever. In children the distinction is more difficult as they are more likely to get a fever with a cold.

To fight flu, rest in bed, have plenty to drink to replace fluid lost through sweating, and take paracetamol or aspirin to reduce fever and relieve aches and pains. A moderate amount of alcohol, possibly in a hot toddy, can help sleep. Gargling with salt water can relieve a sore throat. Congestion can be tackled by inhaling vapour from an infusion of menthol or herbs in hot water.

JEREMY LAURANCE

Children of lone parents are challenging society's misconceptions, Jane Bidder reports



Young minds: Cheryl Keir with children (from all kinds of families) at the University of East London play group

Picture, if you will, the traditional view of the single-parent family. A harassed mother with limp hair, cooking fish fingers for toddlers in a high-rise flat. Low-achieving, pale-faced and under-weight children who stand a higher chance, as teenagers, of ending up in police custody than offspring of dual parenthood. This is undoubtedly the vision painted over the years by psychologists, social workers, teachers and the media.

Well, we could be wrong. A new report, *The ecology of families after parental marital separation*, says there is actually no emotional, physical or educational difference, in the immediate period after separation, between children under the age of two who have one parent and those who have two.

The paper's author — Cheryl Keir, a 33-year-old (childless) lecturer at the University of East London who wrote her dissertation as part of her doctorate — believes that her study is the first to record the small emotional and physical details of families with very young children so soon after separation. She hopes to be given a grant that will enable her to follow the children's progress and assess the long term effects. The parents in the study had been married for an average of four years.

Previous studies have looked at more general statistical trends — How many times have you moved house? What do the children weigh? — and have often been conducted months or years after the break-up. Ms Keir says. The report also departs from previous single-parent studies which have concentrated on the lower end of the social scale. Ms Keir's case histories range from company directors' families to those of dustmen. At the top end of the scale was a single mother in a house with its own tennis court, at the bottom was a mother in a council B&B. All the single parents were women. Fathers in sole charge of under-tens are still a rarity.

Ms Keir, an American, took four years to track down (via health visitors and mother and toddler groups) 76 willing families. Half were separated, divorced or widowed. The other half, the control group, were still married. The researchers made five three-hour visits to each family. The results so excited Ms Keir's supervisor — Charlie Lewis, a 37-year-old lecturer in developmental psychology at Lancaster University — that the two have applied for an American grant (English grants being tight) to continue studying the children. The mothers are right behind them. Ms Keir says: "Many single

Healthy, happy and secure

parents are annoyed that society expects their children to have developmental problems because there's no father at home. One mother was upset by a health visitor who suggested that her son's sleeping problems were because his parents had separated. Yet the health visitor had been told the child hadn't slept properly before the split. Another mother was dreading the teenage years in case her children got into trouble and others assumed her divorce was responsible. It's too easy for professionals to blame single parenthood and parents want this record put straight."

The results of the study, suggesting that the overall development quotient (a sort of junior IQ) was 108 for single-parent children compared with 102 for two-parent children, surprised both pupil and tutor. They had expected the work to bear out the results of previous psychological studies such as the recent *Families Without Fatherhood* by Norman Dennis and George Erdos. This claims "we could find no study which did not show clearly that, over a whole range of outcomes, children in lone parent families suffered disabilities as compared with the average child in the stable two-parent family."

Dr Lewis insists that Ms Keir's report "has great implications for society. Traditionally, people have always assumed single-parent children were disadvantaged. And even though the psychologists Herzog and Sudia wrote a paper in 1973 declaring we shouldn't assume that there is a link, many authorities [medical, teachers etc] think the contrary."

To prove them wrong, the study took five "measures" with which to assess the children's emotional and physical development. Measure one and two involved taking the mother out of the room briefly and observing the child's reaction on her return. "Previously psychologists have argued that disturbed children will cling to the mother

and fail to settle again," Dr Lewis explains. "A balanced child is meant to quickly resume playing with his toys. We also looked at whether a child would calm down if an older sibling came into the room (instead of the mother). Again, psychologists have argued that a stressed child will often turn to a brother or sister as a mother substitute. But in each case, there were no obvious differences between the separated and the married groups. Certainly, some from each refused to settle but there were no more from one than the other."

Measures three and four gauged a child's physical and emotional development such as walking, co-ordination and language skills while measure five was a questionnaire for mothers covering aspects such as how they reacted under stress, whether they felt depressed or guilty, practical circumstances (were they in debt, had they had to move house), how well they got on with their former partners, and their assessment of their children's characters.

Dr Lewis says: "In all these areas, there was no marked difference between either group." So how does he account for the difference between this study and others of older children? "Younger ones aren't so aware of their environment. They haven't got peer pressure from friends who tease them about not having two parents. It's possible that single mothers might have more time to spend on their children's development because their children are all they have."

The National Council for One Parent Families, still cringing over the Dennis/Erdos report, welcomes these new findings. "Children are only likely to suffer emotionally if they are in an unstable situation," Gill Harcourt, the council's spokeswoman, says. "But a stable one-parent environment is better

than married parents in conflict." There are other variants which determine how well a single-parent's offspring fare. Finance and housing are often ignored, Dr Lewis says. Is it any wonder that some single families suffer? — as the National Council for One Parent Families suggests — 50 per cent live on less than £100 a week? "On the other hand, low incomes don't have to destroy family life," Dr Lewis says. "Although many of our single mothers were able to remain in the marital home, they were all on a budget. Yet many felt more in control of their finances because there wasn't a partner to gamble or drink the money away."

The quality of contact with the absent partner is also crucial. A recent government survey suggested that fewer than 50 per cent of separated/divorced fathers failed to see their children. Ms Keir's study indicated that where there was no contact at all, there didn't seem to be any obvious behavioural problems. But where there was contact, the reactions differed. "Some mothers reported that toddlers cried when their fathers left after access meetings while others claimed they carried on playing. There was no overall pattern. What is more interesting is that some married families admitted that their children were upset by marital quarrels. Indeed many separated mothers said they had parted because their parents had always rowed and that had distressed them as children."

The value of a committed father, whether resident or not, as opposed to any old resident dad, is endorsed in Ms Keir's report. "The fathers who bothered to do things with the family created a happier situation."

Widowhood — as opposed to separation — presents a different set of parental problems. "Death is more final than divorce when a father can still be around for access visits," Ms Keir says. "And there is a danger that the remaining parent can over-coddle a child."

Although the report, which Ms Keir hopes to publish next year, shows that children of single-parents are not more stressed, it reveals that their mothers are compared to those in the married group. "But nearly all used their last ounce of strength to hide this and create a normal life for their children," Dr Lewis says. "Separated mothers tended to go out more in the evening than the married group. This gave them strength to maintain tranquility at home. Some were actually less stressed because there wasn't anyone around to upset them. What one should not presume is that a stressed mother equals a stressed child."

Patients need to ask plenty of questions, and to give themselves time to make up their minds."

ANN KENT

Coming clean in coupledness

Davina Lloyd considers the power of a secret in making or breaking a marriage

I say, I say: Why is marriage like a bath? It asks the music hall riddle. Answer: Once you're in, it's not so hot. Perhaps so. Certainly many people who've tested the waters experience the changes in temperature that inevitably take place over the years and cause them to wonder why they took the plunge in the first place. Statistics on social trends show that an ever increasing number are pulling the plug.

To my mind, the mystery is not why so many couples throw in the towel, but why and how so many stay in after the raptures of the first steamy immersion. One could suggest other parallels. Certain assumptions are made publicly, but the mechanics are essentially private. It is assumed that if you have a bathroom, you will probably take regular baths; if you are married, your partnership will encompass various practices within a range of agreed norms: trust, companionship, mutual support, sex probably, child rearing possibly.

But in reality, the variety in styles of coupledness exceeds even the extensive selection of baths. We have become accustomed to a choice ranging from bog-standard avocado acrylic to sunken, designer-tiled, double-ended with inset Jacuzzi — yet we express surprise when we learn of alternative models.

Revelations that a cabinet minister has been involved in an extramarital affair, or a long-married actor has died of an AIDS-related condition after a "double-life" as a bisexual, evoke general amazement. First, "How could he?" (because it is usually the "he" in the partnership), followed by, "How could she?" (because the "she" in the question has known of and evidently condoned the situation).

Such exposures of the private relationships of public persons blow the doors off everyone's bathroom and provoke us to examine our own partnerships. Yet, according to the experts, all couples have secrets. "Within any marriage a number of things are withheld," says Tricia Barnes, a psychotherapist and the director of a sexual and marital therapy clinic. "Some are related to information, some to behaviour."

"A secret is powerful when one partner holds it over the other, allegedly 'for their own good', believing it would hurt the other partner to know for certain about the gambling, drinking, drug abuse or whatever. Yet once a secret is locked into a marriage it is difficult to release; it absorbs enormous amounts of energy — in concealment on the one side and in trying to discover, or not discover, on the other."

Trust is highly valued within a permanent partnership, so disclosure of the previously unacknowledged behaviour may be correspondingly disruptive. Discovery

strips off the pretence, shatters the illusion, unmasks the myth. Strongest among secrets are the sexual ones. When these are uncovered the other partner feels challenged and betrayed.

"The obvious revelation within a marriage is the affair. When the man — it could as well be the woman — owns up or is found to be involved with someone outside the partnership. The eternal triangle. There is deep hurt and anger," says Ms Barnes. The rage and revenge depend on how the individual views the act. Is it more or less hurtful if the "other person" is another woman or another man? Or no one at all?

There can be as much a sense of betrayal when the discovery does not involve anyone outside. For instance, if the uncovered secret is private masturbation, the other partner says, "I'm here, so why do you need to do this?" Similarly when the secret is personal but prolonged, as in an example cited by Ms Barnes of the faked orgasm.

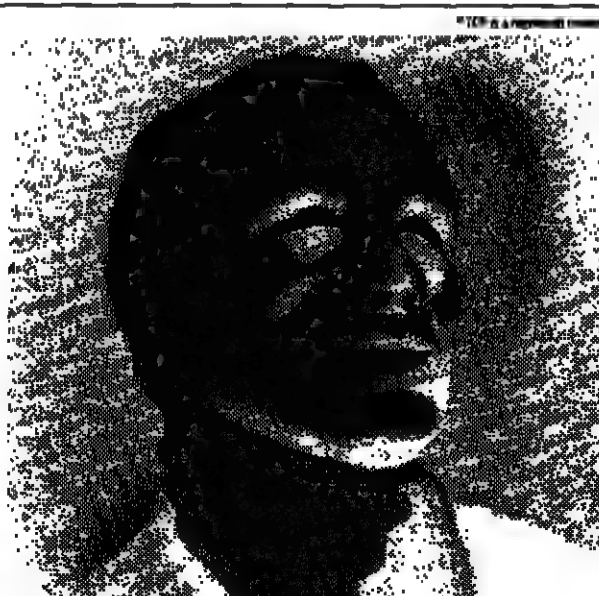
The longer the pretence has continued, the harder it is to unlock the secret. When marriage, billed as a bicycle made for two, is exposed as a wholly different sort of vehicle, both riders may lose their balance. Each is in a state of bereavement, grieving for the loss of the way things were or the way they thought things were.

Peeping through bathroom keyholes, as we are, and looking from the outside, we may still wonder how couples continue to operate. Why did they stay together? How well the "wronged" partner recovers from this depends on how strongly he or she feels about the offence. And more importantly how they feel about themselves — their personal confidence and gender identity.

Some cannot countenance the change, and opt to end the relationship. Some seek to extract promises: "Never see her/him again." Others stall.

"Most people want to continue the relationship," says Ms Barnes. So there is collusion, a spoken or unspoken abatement. When the unveiling comes, they weigh up what there is to be lost — security, companionship, a shared history. Notions of complicity, compromise and collaboration are replaced by acceptance, accommodation and mutual arrangement.

The couple consider the consequences of parting, public embarrassment, widening ripples of disrupted lives, and decide to stay together. The pair hold the secret together against the world and decide that it is none of the world's business. Perhaps that's how it is best done. You agree what must be accepted as water under the soap dish, decide between you who will sit up at the tap end, and keep your bathroom door firmly bolted.



GARGLING WITH TCP

The effective way to fight sore throats.

TCP

SOOTHES PAIN. FIGHTS BACTERIA.

Hormone replacement: not so simple as it seems

What menopausal women need to know, and doctors should tell them, about hormone replacement therapy

Mary Brown is 48 and her ovaries are beginning to fail. As she talks to customers in the showroom where she works, she is horrified to find herself blushing frequently and without warning. Her problem is caused by deficiency of the hormone oestrogen, regarded by some doctors as a pathological condition requiring treatment and by others as a natural sign of ageing.

Mrs Brown (a fictional character) visits her GP, who prescribes hormone replacement therapy (HRT) — a combination of oestrogen, to replace the hormone which her ovaries were no longer producing, and progestogen. As a result her hot flushes disappear, along with the night sweats, bad temper and discomfort during lovemaking.

Every few months a survey is published suggesting that real women are not so lucky. Family doctors are accused of not keeping up with HRT developments: women are said to be ignorant about it. The latest of these was published this week by the

Amarant Trust, founded by Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP for Billericay and a staunch supporter of HRT. It accused family doctors of giving menopausal women a rushed, inadequate service, and of being reluctant to persevere with the treatment if side-effects appear.

But the ambivalent attitudes of doctors can be explained by the uncertainties which still surround HRT, says Ann McPherson, an Oxford GP. She says women need to understand that hormone replacement therapy is strongly promoted by pharmaceutical companies on the basis that it protects women against osteoporosis, the bone-thinning disease, and also against heart disease. Its efficacy in abolishing the inconvenient symptoms described by Mrs Brown tend to take third place.

Dr McPherson says she would reassure Mrs Brown that HRT would almost certainly relieve her symptoms, provided she took it for



HRT fan: Teresa Gorman

at least three months. "I would also like to tell her that the treatment will definitely prevent her from getting osteoporosis — but I can't because I don't know she is at risk from that disease. I would like to say there will be no serious side-effects but I cannot say so categorically because we know there is a slight increase in breast cancer in women who take it for more than

ten years. I do not take the view that everyone should take HRT. We don't really know who should use it, or for how long."

Nevertheless Dr McPherson often prescribes HRT to women with symptoms such as Mrs Brown's and to women who do not have symptoms but feel they would benefit from long-term protection to their hearts and bones. A blood test can be used to check whether the woman's ovaries are beginning to fail.

Dr McPherson says: "I am happy to prescribe HRT to patients who want it, but not all women want to use it and I don't think they should be made to feel on medical grounds that they have to. Most women who use HRT have to put up with the return of their periods, and in some cases premenstrual symptoms as well. Decisions about using it or not using it involve balancing the risks and benefits."

In practice, Dr McPherson

The Times Good University Guide

You know what you want to read — but which institution should you choose? In the final part of our guide, John O'Leary explains how the universities were graded, subject by subject

Ranking universities by subjects is both more useful to prospective students and more problematic than establishing their overall standing.

There can be pockets of excellence in the most mediocre institutions, and blackspots in the best. Aggregate scores may determine positions in a pecking order, but reputations will vary between subject groupings.

Universities of all types are being encouraged to concentrate on their strengths, making it even more likely that apparently implausible candidates will appear at the head of narrower rankings.

Published statistics make such gems harder to unearth, however. Although the funding councils' ratings for teaching and research are based on subject areas, many of the other key indicators are not broken down in this way.

The rankings for seven main subject areas published here do not take account of research strengths, both because the last assessments in the traditional universities date back more than three years and because direct comparisons are not available for the new universities.

The tables will need to be updated when the results of the latest research exercise are published next February. This will, for the first time, encompass both new and old universities.

This first attempt at subject rankings is based on entry grades, staffing levels and departmental budgets. As such, it reflects reputation and demand for places, as well as the resources available in the main subject areas.

However, because fewer variables have been used, scores bunch more closely together and there can be less confidence that universities of

similar strength can be separated accurately. As a result, in order to minimise the risk of misrepresentation, more universities have been bracketed together than in the other tables.

In the most extreme example, the sciences, four universities share the top position, Manchester succeeding in matching Oxford, Cambridge and Imperial College. London. Four universities also share ninth place, indicating the keen competition in the area.

Had the table been extended to the top 15 places, it would have included Nottingham Trent University, demonstrating the strength of some of the former polytechnics when research is discounted. The University of Wales College of Cardiff would also have featured.

Business and management was another area which was tight at the top. Warwick, Lancaster and Bradford tying. As a measure of undergraduate courses, the guide did not include the best-known business schools, which concentrate on postgraduate qualifications. Business subjects have been the new universities' boom area for several years, and this is reflected in the appearance of both Sheffield Hallam and Manchester Metropolitan universities in the top ten. Leeds Metropolitan, Greenwich, Plymouth, Hertfordshire and Kingston also come close to a place in the elite group, although all are behind the University of Ulster.

Other subject areas are more clear cut, although languages also produces a dead heat between Oxford and Cambridge. The older universities dominate the ratings for languages. Reading and Exeter being the only institutions to break the stranglehold of the ancients and the civics.

Universities are being encouraged to concentrate on their strengths



Decisions, decisions: with 96 universities to choose from, sixth-form pupils confront a cornucopia of possibilities

As in all the subject rankings, size appears to confer distinct advantages. Universities are omitted if they have fewer than 500 students in languages or humanities, 750 in social sciences, and 1,000 in medicine, science and engineering. But the big battalions tend to dominate even those which narrowly cross this threshold.

Oxford also takes first place in the humanities, the grouping which includes history, philosophy, theology and archaeology. Cambridge and Edinburgh complete the top three in both languages and humanities, with St Andrews, Manchester and Glasgow ex-

changing places among the top six. Only Leeds, as one of those on fourth place for languages, manages to break in.

Imperial College tops the engineering ranking, even without taking account of its recent switch to four-year degrees in the area. Cambridge, where there is a more theoretical approach, beats UMIST to second place. The new universities again hover outside the top ten, despite their lower funding levels. Leeds Metropolitan, Middlesex and Plymouth all appear in the net ten places.

Specialisation also pays off for the London School of

Economics in the social science ranking, where Essex shows with its third place that smaller universities can overcome any handicaps of size. Although Oxford appears in second place, Cambridge is relegated to a cluster of universities behind Manchester and Birmingham.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is the position of University College London, at the head of the ranking for medicine. The college set its sights on producing Britain's top medical school when the Middlesex and University College hospitals merged, and the ranking suggests that it succeeded. The faculties of life and clinical

sciences, which make up the school, have expanded recently and gained in strength as a result.

Traditionally strong schools at Edinburgh, Newcastle, Glasgow and Liverpool appear ahead of Oxford and Cambridge in the table. Although many of the new universities are strong in subjects in the health field, none has a medical school.

Some of the traditional universities are consistently strong performers in the subject rankings without appearing in any of the top tens. Sheffield is the prime example, making the top 15 in five of the seven rankings.

1. Warwick
2. Lancaster
3. Bradford
4. Cardiff
5. Bath
6. UMIST

7. City University
8. Sheffield Hallam
9. Manchester Met.
10. Aston
Surrey
Strathclyde

1. Imperial
2. Cambridge
3. UMIST
4. Oxford
5. Birmingham
Loughborough

7. Strathclyde
8. Manchester
UCL
Leeds
Southampton

1. Oxford
2. Cambridge
3. Edinburgh
4. St Andrews
5. Manchester

6. Glasgow
7. UCL
8. Warwick
9. Bristol
Nottingham
Birmingham

1. Oxford
2. Cambridge
3. Edinburgh
4. Leeds
5. Manchester
6. Glasgow

7. St Andrews
8. Bristol
9. Reading
10. Durham
Birmingham
Exeter

1. UCL
2. Edinburgh
3. Newcastle
4. Glasgow
5. Liverpool

6. Oxford
7. Birmingham
8. Cambridge
9. Manchester
Bristol
King's

1. Cambridge
2. Manchester
3. Oxford
4. Imperial
5. Glasgow
Birmingham

7. Leeds
8. Bristol
9. UCL
Nottingham
Edinburgh
Liverpool

1. LSE
2. Oxford
3. Essex
4. Manchester
5. Birmingham

6. Cambridge
7. Bristol
8. Lancaster
9. York
10. Edinburgh
Glasgow

Research in the melting pot

Private contracts are vital to the modern university's research profile

Research is the most highly politicised area of higher education. The new universities feel unfairly excluded from the main action, while many of their older rivals fear they might lose their privileged position.

Even established universities that are in no apparent danger of losing their research role worry that a new funding regime may penalise them. By opening up more of the research budget to open competition, the government may destabilise the many departments where teaching and research are indivisible.

The acknowledged link between these two activities makes a university's research base highly relevant to the undergraduate. The top ten universities have been compiled by combining ratings for research income from research councils and private sources with positions in the last funding council rankings and their effect on current budgets.

The result has been to knock Cambridge off the top spot it enjoyed in the 1989 research rankings. The prodigious success of London's Imperial and University colleges in winning private contracts more than compensated for the slight lead enjoyed by Cambridge and Oxford in research council funding. The aggregate figure for London was omitted from this table.

Imperial has been Oxford's closest rival in science research for many years. Almost all of its departments were considered internationally outstanding when the last research assessments were



Top class: Sarah Houlton, a researcher at Imperial

RESEARCH OF 1992

1. Imperial
2. University College, London
3. Cambridge
4. Oxford
5. UMIST
6. King's College
7. Warwick
8. Glasgow
9. LSE
10. Edinburgh

conducted, and several areas have since been strengthened. The emphasis on research income also gives the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology a place in the top five. Only Cambridge can match its success with the research councils, and only Imperial, UCL and Surrey approach its record for attracting private contracts.

Technological universities inevitably gain some advan-

tage from the use of research income as the main indicator in this table. Although the London School of Economics wins a place in the top ten, the much larger sums involved in scientific research are bound to work against specialists in the arts and social sciences. Essex, for example, was nowhere near the top ten, despite achieving eighth place in the research ratings in our main table yesterday.

The former polytechnics, which have not enjoyed the traditional universities' automatic funding for research, are even less able to compete with those at the top of the table. Some have built up healthy consultancy businesses but the sums involved are not comparable with the older universities.

The results of a new national research assessment will be published in February, and the more selective allocation of research council funds will add to the volatility.

J. O'LEARY

NOTTINGHAM TRENT

Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU (0602 418418)
Formerly Nottingham (originally Trent) Polytechnic
Full-time students: 4,644 (f), 6,334 (m)
7,260 arts, 3,718 sciences
The new name is expected to be approved by the Privy Council today, bringing to an end a long wrangle with Nottingham University. The change will not affect the institution's commitment to part-time, professional and continuing education.
Nottingham was always among the most popular polytechnics. The two sites, five miles apart, include almost 1,000 residential places. The new university is hoping to break into the research market by focusing on the interface between subjects such as business and engineering. It won more quality awards for teaching than any other polytechnic last year, with science, environmental subjects, business and social sciences doing particularly well.

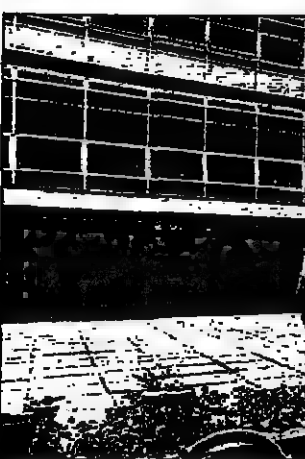
OXFORD

University offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (0865 270000)
Established 1096
Full-time students: 5,578 (f), 8,876 (m)
5,762 arts, 4,361 sciences
Beaten to poll position by Cambridge in the Times table, Oxford still has arts facilities that are the envy of universities throughout the world. The new Magdalen College Science Park epitomises a drive to enhance Oxford's reputation in the sciences. The 28 undergraduate colleges continue to teach students in small tutorial groups, with lectures an optional extra which some find only marginally useful. Traditional honours schools such as philosophy, politics and economics, classics and history retain their prestige, while newer courses such as engineering, economics and management are gaining in popularity. There are signs

that future growth will focus on postgraduates, but Oxford remains a lively place to spend three or four years reading a first degree. Following Somerville's contentious decision to admit men, St Hilda's may soon be the last bastion of single-sex education in Oxford.

OXFORD BROOKES

Gypsy Hill, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP (0865 741111)
Presently Oxford Polytechnic
Full-time students: 4,153 (f), 3,458 (m)
4,073 arts, 3,538 sciences
The new name, agreed after months of discussion, is still to be approved by the Privy Council. It celebrates the achievements of John Brookes, who was the principal of the college which spawned the polytechnic. With one site fully developed



Newcomer: now Oxford Polytechnic, but soon to be Oxford Brookes University

and another stifled by green belt restrictions, the new university has called a temporary halt to expansion. Students complain that lecture theatres are packed, while facilities such as the library, crèche and computer suites struggle to meet demand. Open University-style learning packages are being introduced to cope with larger classes. Students construct their own degrees from a programme of more than 600 modules. examinations coming every term. The computer facilities

won a national award, and planning, architecture and estate management have been praised by HM Inspectorate. First-years are given priority in the allocation of more than 1,500 residential places, but only half get a hall place. Private sector rents are high.

PAISLEY

High Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 2BE (041-848 3000)
Formerly Paisley College
Full-time students: 1,307 (f), 2,581 (m)
1,472 arts, 2,416 sciences
The student population has grown substantially, but class sizes remain relatively small. Most courses are strongly vocational, with a technological thrust. A high proportion of students take sandwich courses. All receive computer training, and modern languages are being

Polytechnic
Full-time students: 3,826 (f), 5,207 (m)
1,841 arts, 4,672 sciences
Now the largest university in the region, Plymouth has taken in an art college in Exeter, an agricultural college near Newton Abbot, and a college of education in Exmouth in recent years. It also has responsibility for Dartington College of Art and is franchising courses to other colleges in the South West. Unlike many other new universities, 90 per cent of Plymouth's students are on full-time or sandwich courses. The prospect of a residential place varies between the campuses: there are 700 places reserved for first-years in Plymouth, accommodation is guaranteed in Exmouth and Newton Abbot, but students have to rely on the private sector in Exeter. The

Full-time students: 3,404 (f), 5,249 (m)
4,692 arts, 3,961 sciences
Plymouth has been pursuing university status for longer than most, having only narrowly missed it before the polytechnics were established. Some 30 buildings are spread around the city centre, with a second campus three miles away at Milton. Languages are a particular strength. One student in five takes a language course of some sort, and the facilities rival most of the traditional universities. Science courses achieved the highest ratings in last year's polytechnic quality awards. Engineering and health subjects also came out well. Six halls, some overlooking the sea, provide about 1,000 residential places, three-quarters of which are reserved for first-years. A recently extended library is one of the best among the new universities.

READING

Whiteknights, PO Box 217, Reading RG6 2AH (0734 875123)
Established 1892
Full-time students: 4,152 (f), 4,092 (m)
3,642 arts, 2,295 sciences
Best known for its agricultural courses (CDD), which have always attracted large numbers of overseas students. Reading is also strong in subjects as diverse as French (BBC) and the physical sciences. A merger with Bulmershe College has strengthened education courses, as well as introducing film and drama (BBC) and American studies (BBC). The main campus is set in 300 acres of parkland on the outskirts of Reading. Although there are 13 halls of residence, first-years are guaranteed a place only if they are holding Reading as a firm choice by May 30. The university likes to mix students in terms of subjects and years. Arts and social science students take three subjects for their first two terms. Science degrees are modular. Few departments interview their applicants.

PORTSMOUTH

University House, Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth PO1 2UP (0705 827681)
Formerly Portsmouth Polytechnic

ROBERT GORDON
Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB9
1FR (0224 633611)
Formerly The Robert Gordon
Institute of Technology
Full-time students: 2,185 (f),
2,415 (m)
2,359 arts, 2,241 sciences
Early links with the North
Sea oil and gas industries
exemplify the new university's
commitment to vocational
education.
Other strengths include
engineering, pharmacy,
business and management,
art and design, and
architecture. Flexible courses
are linked to the Scottish credit
accumulation system,
allowing easy transfer in and
out of the institution.
The main city centre campus
adjoins Aberdeen art gallery.
As well as four other sites in
the city, the university runs an
attractive field study centre at
Cromarty, in the Highlands.
First-years are given priority
for the 1,000 residential
places. Another 400 places
should be available in 1993.

ST ANDREWS
College Gate, North Street, St
Andrews KY16 9AJ (0334
761611)
Established 1411
Full-time students: 2,155 (f),
2,046 (m)
2,145 arts, 1,683 sciences
The oldest Scottish university
and the third oldest in the
UK. St Andrews used to be
dominated by students from
south of the border. Scottish
students now make up almost
half the undergraduates and
a majority of postgraduates.
The university retains many
colourful traditions. New
students acquire third or
fourth-year "parents" to ease
them into university life, and
on Raisin Monday give them
a bottle of wine in return for a
Latin receipt.
St Andrews rates highly for
languages (ABB for English),
physiology (three Cs),
philosophy and history (both
three Bs). First-years are
guaranteed one of 2,600
residential places. A new hall
of 350 rooms with en suite
facilities should be ready next
year.

SALFORD
Salford M5 4WT
(061-745 5000)
Established 1967, originally a
college of advanced
technology
Full-time students: 1,701 (f),
1,321 (m)
1,402 arts, 2,998 sciences
The main victim of the
university cuts of the 1980s,
Salford has bounced back as
the prototype decentralised,
customer-oriented institution
cited approvingly by
ministers. About 40 per cent
of the students are on
sandwich courses, many
abroad.
The landscaped campus is
two miles from the centre of
Manchester, and has a
mainline railway station.
First-years are guaranteed
accommodation close enough
to cycle to lectures. Private
rents are relatively low.
European studies and
engineering (three Cs for
mechanical) are among the
university's strengths. Salford
is one of the traditional
universities being steered
towards teaching. This year
research funds are effectively
frozen.

SHEFFIELD
Sheffield S10 2TN (0742
768355)
Established 1897, royal
charter 1905
Full-time students: 4,459 (f),
6,270 (m)
3,972 arts, 4,669 sciences
Sheffield suffers in our
rankings for an outstanding
year in 1991, when it received
the top allocations among the
traditional universities for
both teaching and research.
There was little room for
improvement this year.
It consistently features in the
top three for the volume of
applications and is especially
strong in psychology (three
Bs), electronic engineering
(BBC), architecture (three Bs),
social policy (BBC) and law
(ABB). Modular degrees and
a semester system are being
introduced.
First-years are almost certain
of one of the 3,750 residential
places, which are within
walking distance of the main
precinct close to the city
centre. Sheffield courses are
also offered in a network of
further education colleges,
mainly in the north of
England, and a £100-million
university college is planned
for the Dearne Valley, 12
miles to the north.

**SHEFFIELD
HALLAM**
Fond Street, Sheffield
S1 1WB (0742 720911)
Formerly Sheffield
Polytechnic
Full-time students: 5,137 (f),
6,998 (m)
6,802 arts, 5,611 sciences
The new university is
undergoing an £80-million
transformation designed to
alter its image and revitalise
Sheffield's drab city centre
with two modern campuses.
Expansion and consolidation,
it is hoped, will cut costs,
make life easier for students
and staff, and allow one of the

largest of the former
polytechnics to grow to
20,000 students before long.
Although there are only
2,100 residential places,
private rents are relatively low.
Business and industry are
closely involved in developing
the 100 full-time and 150
part-time courses, most of
which are applied. There is
also growing strength in
applied research, which
provides more income than
most of the new universities
can command.

SOUTH BANK
103 Borough Road, London
SE1 0AA (071-928 8989)
Formerly South Bank
Polytechnic
Full-time students: 3,682 (f),
5,113 (m)
2,745 arts, 6,050 sciences
South Bank, "the university
without ivory towers", has
stayed closer than most to the
original brief for the
polytechnics, specialising in
engineering, design, business
and management, and the
built environment.

Almost three-quarters of the
students live locally, many
coming from south London's
ethnic communities. The
university does not accept
responsibility for student
accommodation, although
first-years are given priority in
the three halls of residence.
Sporting prowess is a
particular source of pride,
facilities including two
gymnasiums and a large sports
ground in Dulwich.
Academic facilities include a
new library, which is one of
the most technologically
advanced in the country.

SOUTHAMPTON
Highfield, Southampton
SO9 5NH (0703 595000)
Established 1862, royal
charter 1952
Full-time students: 3,202 (f),
4,712 (m)
2,592 arts, 3,836 sciences
The university is outgrowing
its compact campus three
miles out of the city centre, but
proposals for new sites have
become bogged down in
planning procedures. New
buildings have opened
recently for electronics and
oceanography, which may get
its own dockside research
centre.
Chemistry (BBC), electronic
engineering (three Bs),
economics (BBC) and ship
science (CCD) are among the
top-rated degrees. Medicine
(three Bs) offers clinical
experience even in the first
two years, allowing fourth-
year students to specialise.
About 40 per cent of
Southampton students live
in university accommodation,
although first-years are
guaranteed a place only if
they accept by the end of May.
There is one hall designed for
disabled students.

STAFFORDSHIRE
College Road, Stoke-on-Trent
ST4 2DE (0782 744531)
Formerly Staffordshire
(originally North Staffs)
Polytechnic
Full-time students: 2,941 (f),
4,392 (m)
4,066 arts, 3,267 sciences
Two-thirds of the staff have
moved their place of work in a
massive rationalisation of
space designed to cope with
expanding student numbers.
There are two campuses:
at Stafford and the main site in
Stoke, including the futuristic
Octagon Centre, in which
lecture theatres, offices and
walkways surround a huge
concourse containing more
than 300 advanced computer
workstations.
The business school, which
did well in the polytechnics'
quality ratings, straddles both
sites in a deliberate attempt to
foster links with the private
sector. Courses are being
developed in enterprise,
innovation and communications.
Good sports facilities are a
major attraction: three
students won medals at last
year's World Student Games.
Hundreds of residential
places have been built since a
widely-publicised
accommodation shortage two
years ago.

STIRLING
Stirling FK9 4LA
(0786 731711)
Established 1967
Full-time students: 1,900 (f),
1,900 (m)
2,250 arts, 750 sciences
One of the most beautiful
campuses in Britain features
low-level buildings in a
lochsides setting beneath the
Ochil Hills. First-years are
guaranteed one of the 2,600
campus places, and there will
soon be 230 more.
Stirling was the British
pioneer of the semester
system. The academic year is
divided into two 15-week
halves.
Although the university is
highly rated in some research
fields — notably aquaculture
— it is being encouraged to
concentrate on teaching. Film
and media studies (ABB) is
particularly popular, and the
Scottish Centre for Japanese
Studies, which offers
Japanese with a range of
other subjects, is breaking
new ground. Business and
management courses (three
Bs) are also well regarded.

SURREY
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH
(0483 308000)
Established 1966 from
college of technology
Full-time students: 1,857 (f),
2,346 (m)
1,074 arts, 2,328 sciences
Surrey's technological
background has helped it to a
regular place near the top of
the graduate employment
league, as well as boosting
research income. However,
arts courses have also been
growing recently.
The university hit the
headlines this year for having
the youngest graduate of

STRATHCLYDE
Richmond Street, Glasgow
G1 1XQ (041-552 4400)
Established 1794, royal
charter 1964
Full-time students: 2,941 (f),
4,392 (m)
4,066 arts, 3,266 sciences
Almost a third of Strathclyde's
students are over 21 at entry,
many coming with non-
traditional qualifications. A
merger with Jordanhill
College of Education will
increase the diversity.
However, it is shedding its
image as a "nine to five"
university with a new student
village on the campus, which
borders Glasgow's chic
Merchant City. First-years are
given priority for the 2,200
residential places.
Courses are tailored to the
needs of industry, with a five-
year degree in international
business and modern
languages (BBC) among the
most popular. The business
school is one of the largest in
Britain, and a BSc in forensic
and analytical chemistry
(three Cs) is unique in
Europe. Courses are modular.

SUNDERLAND
Edinburgh Building, Chester
Road, Sunderland SR1 3SD
(091-515 2082)
Full-time students: 3,173 (f),
3,982 (m)
2,046 arts, 3,577 sciences
Sunderland is pioneering a
scheme to extend access to
local people without A-levels.
Students who have reached
the required level of
numeracy, literacy and other
basic skills will be admitted by
interview on the
recommendation of their
colleges.
A high proportion of home-
based students enables the
university to accommodate
most first-years, even though
it has only 900 residential
places. Most are within
walking distance of the two
town centre sites.
Only the teacher training and
part-time business courses
received quality awards last
year. As well as working
closely with local colleges,
Sunderland is active in
Europe through links with
more than 60 Continental
universities and colleges.

year abroad and established
favourites such as American
studies (BBC) still highly
rated, places are still in
demand.
First-years and the many
overseas students have first
call on the plentiful campus
accommodation. Most second
and third-year students
choose to live in
Brighton itself.

TEESSIDE
Borough Road,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland
TS1 3BA (0642 606755)
Formerly Teesside
Polytechnic
Full-time students: 1,967 (f),
3,444 (m)
2,980 arts, 2,431 sciences
The university has made good
use of its links with
multinational corporations in
the area, such as ICI. It is no
coincidence that chemical
engineering and computing
are two of the strongest
subjects. Art and design is

also highly rated.
Student accommodation is
scarce, although there are
plans to provide more. The
university is based near the
centre of Middlesbrough,
with an outpost four miles out
of town.
Teesside has entered the
university era with a new vice-
chancellor and development
plans that should lift it from
its position near the foot of the
Times table. Collaboration
with Durham on the joint
university college project
featured yesterday, is one sign
of its ambition.

THAMES VALLEY
St Mary's Road, Ealing,
London W5 5RF
(081-579 5000)
Polytechnic of West London
Full-time students: 3,300 (f),
2,900 (m)
4,000 arts, 1,200 sciences
Thames Valley is another of
the new universities to have
enjoyed a meteoric rise after
years of waiting for
polytechnic status. Two years
ago, it did not exist, and
Ealing and Thames Valley

was formed. Its charter was
unique in stipulating that
there should be courses below
degree level.
Community consciousness
has done the university's
reputation no harm in
Ireland, however. The main
Belfast campus has never
been busier, and the
expanded Magee College, in
Londonderry, attracts
students from both sides of
the border. The original
university at Coleraine is
more traditional.
The university has fewer than
1,000 residential places, but a
high proportion of the
students live at home. The
academic year is divided into
two semesters, with an added
summer teaching period.

WALES
Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1
3NS (0222 32656)
Established 1893
Full-time students: 12,817 (f),
13,147 (m)
Second only to its federal
counterpart, London, in terms
of size, it is surrendering more
power to the colleges.

BANGOR
Bangor, Gwynedd LL57
2DG (0248 351151)
Established 1884
Full-time students: 1,850 (f),
2,088 (m)
1,633 arts, 1,508 sciences
Having closed several
departments in a
restructuring exercise, Bangor
is concentrating on its
strengths and aims to double
student numbers by the end
of the decade.
Sport, health and PE (BBC) is
popular, agroforestry (CCD)
unique in Britain, while
oceanography students
benefit from two research
ships. Several departments
offer Welsh speakers bilingual
tuition.
One of the seven halls is
Welsh-speaking. First-years
are guaranteed one of the
1,600 residential places.
Another 500 will be available
next year.

CARDIFF
PO Box 68, Cardiff CF1 3XA
(0222 87400)
Established 1888 from
merger of University College
(1883) and UWIST (1866)
Full-time students: 4,587 (f),
5,260 (m)
3,980 arts, 4,097 sciences
Cardiff is by far the largest of
the university's colleges. A £30
million engineering complex,
with state of the art physics
and astronomy facilities, is
nearing completion.
Many of the 400 degrees
feature a common first year,
allowing students to defer
their choice of specialism.
Preliminary years are
available in engineering and
biology for students with arts
qualifications.
The college is popular with
overseas students, and has
centres for both Japanese and
Chinese studies. First-years
are guaranteed one of the
3,500 residential places.

ST DAVID'S
Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7ED
(0570 422351)
Established 1822. University
of Wales 1971
Full-time students: 551 (f),
503 (m)
1,005 arts, 8 sciences
In the whole of England and
Wales, only Oxford and
Cambridge were awarding
degrees before Lampeter. Yet
only Buckingham is smaller.
The college occupies an
ancient castle site in rural
Wales. Most students live in,
and first-years are guaranteed
accommodation.
Bachelors of arts or divinity
are the only undergraduate
degrees, and several
departments offer teaching in
Welsh. Other languages
include Swedish (CCD),
Arabic and Greek.

SWANSEA
Singleton Park, Swansea SA2
8PP (0792 205678)
Established 1920
Full-time students: 3,207 (f),
2,684 (m)
2,945 arts, 2,026 sciences
A very public controversy over
plagiarism appears not to
have prejudiced Swansea's
plans to increase student
numbers to 10,000 by the
end of the decade. Philosophy
(BBC), where the row took
place over PhD theses, soon
filled its places.
The college specialises in
European integration, with
84 Continental links. Many
of the 25 new courses have a
language component, and
next year a new law school
will offer both international
and European law.
Closer to home, the college is
launching a "university of the
valleys" for mature students in
an area of high
unemployment. The 2,700
residential places can
accommodate all first-years
living away from home.

WARWICK
Coventry CV4 7AL (0203
523523)
Founded 1964
Full-time students: 3,493 (f),
3,812 (m)
4,045 arts, 2,147 sciences
In its early years Warwick has
derided by some for its close
links with business and
industry. Few are critical
today.
The excellence of the 34
departments has brought a
major European award, as
well as sixth place in the
Times rankings. Biological
sciences (three Cs),
mathematics (AAB), social
sciences (ABC for economics)
and management (three Bs)
are among the many
strengths.
The campus, three miles out
of Coventry, contains almost
3,500 residential places,
many with en suite facilities.
Its research standing is
enhanced by one of the most
successful science parks.

WESTMINSTER
309 Regent Street, London
W1R 8AL (071-911 5000)
Formerly Polytechnic of
Central London
Full-time students: 3,510 (f),
4,290 (m)
4,080 arts, 3,720 sciences
Almost 20 sites sprawl across
London, from the West End
to Harrow, where major
development is planned. The
12,500 part-time students
easily outnumber the full-
timers.
Accommodation is still a
problem, since only a
minority of the full-timers live
at home and the university
has more students per place
than most others. First-years
are given priority.
Language teaching is one of
Westminster's strengths, with
26 different languages
available from the most basic
level to postgraduate study.
Art and design, engineering,
computing, architecture and
environmental subjects are
also rated highly. The
university is a leader in the
Enterprise in Higher
Education Initiative, which
weaves work-related skills into
degree programmes.

WOLVERHAMPTON
Wulfruna Street,
Wolverhampton WV1 1SB
(0902 321000)
Formerly Wolverhampton
Polytechnic
Full-time students: 4,793 (f),
4,022 (m)
6,007 arts, 2,808 sciences
Wolverhampton pioneered
the high-street higher
education shop, which has
brought in thousands who
might never have continued
their education. There are
now 16,000 full and part-
time students, and plans for
increases of 6 per cent a year.
The new university runs a big
"outreach" programme,
taking courses directly to the
workplace. It also has a
campus at Telford, to add to
the Walsall base it acquired
three years ago.
Accommodation on the five
sites is limited, but many of
the students live at home. The
biggest schools are law, which
has more than 500 students
worldwide, and teacher
education.

YORK
Heslington, York YO1 5DD
(0904 430000)
Established 1963
Full-time students: 2,062 (f),
2,564 (m)
1,967 arts, 1,691 sciences
An outstanding 12th place in
the Times rankings
demonstrates the scale of
York's achievements. All those
placed higher in the table are
significantly larger.
Growth in science and
technology over the last
decade has balanced an initial
bias towards the arts and
social sciences, although most
of the top-rated subjects are
still in the established areas.
Economics (BBC), social
policy (BBC) and ecology
(three Cs) are among the
university's strengths.
The seven colleges (one
reserved for postgraduates)
mix academic and social
roles. First-years are
guaranteed a place on the
lakeside campus two miles
from the centre of York.



Getting in and getting on

Cambridge is both the most difficult university to get into and the best staffed, according to *The Times* survey. Oxford is not far behind on either measure, although Edinburgh edges ahead on staffing levels (John O'Leary writes).

Neither criterion is an infallible guide to the standard of undergraduate courses, but they do provide an indication of reputation and the resourcing of academic departments. Staffing takes by far the biggest share of any university's budget.

Both measures are unpopular with the former polytechnics, which are pioneering new teaching methods to cater for larger intakes, and which take an increasing proportion of their students without A-levels. The spread of vocational qualifications and the

ENTRY STANDARDS

1. Cambridge
2. Oxford
3. Durham
4. LSE
5. Bristol
6. Bath
7. Imperial College
8. Edinburgh
9. York
10. Manchester

growing numbers of mature students will make A-level grades increasingly unreliable as a guide to entry standards.

For the moment, however, they represent one of the few indicators of the standing of courses among applicants. Even the alternative of rating courses according to the

TOP TEN STAFFING

1. Cambridge
2. Edinburgh
3. Oxford
4. Imperial College
5. King's College
6. Queen's, Belfast
7. Queen Mary, London
8. Manchester
9. Newcastle

volume of applications has its distortions. Cambridge, for example, has relatively few applicants to the place because its reputation for selectivity deters all but the most able candidates.

Those new university courses that can command high entry grades do not hesitate to demand them.

The likes of Manchester's computer engineering degree, or Oxford's in estate management, have long competed with traditional university courses on A-level grades.

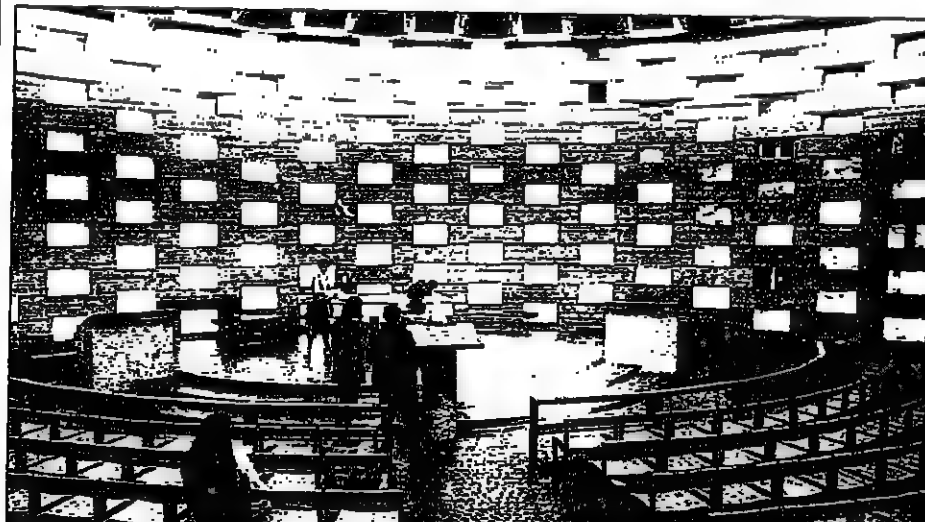
Similarly, some of the new universities are making great strides in terms of teaching technology, but few would doubt that favourable staffing levels benefit the student. Whether the academic is employed in a lecture theatre or as the human dimension to a more modern system, there is no substitute for the personal touch that has always been a hallmark of British higher education.

Some of the traditional universities have begun to expand and cut costs on a scale that is producing surprisingly low staffing levels, but in general they remain much more generously staffed than the former poly-

technics. There are exceptions, such as Hull, Aberdeen and even Sussex, but they prove the rule established on campuses from Belfast to Newcastle.

Of the new universities, the best staffing ratings go to Glamorgan, which makes the top 20, and Leeds Metropolitan immediately behind it. The gulf in entry standards is wider, with Oxford Brookes and Middlesex demanding the highest grades.

Measuring entry standards reverses the bias towards the technological universities that is apparent in other areas of the rankings. The continuing high demand for arts and social science courses is reflected in the high positions enjoyed by the LSE, Durham and St Andrews, although Bath and Imperial College show that entry to science courses is not always easy.



Breaking down the barriers: the meeting house, a non-denominational chapel at Sussex

colleges had only just agreed to merge.

The university has been trying to expand its Ealing base, and in Slough, too, it occupies a town centre site. The polytechnic enjoyed a good reputation in law, languages, business and some sciences. More than half the students take a language course.

First-years are given priority for the 300 residential places. Private sector rents are high.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
PO Box 2, Aberystwyth,
Dyfed SY23 2AX
(0970 623111)
Established 1872
Full-time students: 2,020 (f),
2,155 (m)
2,202 arts, 1,135 sciences
A seaside location is one reason that the Aberystwyth college was heavily oversubscribed this year. The 10,500 applicants chasing 1,350 places represented a record for the college.
Another 600 residential places have been added to head off a repeat of the problems experienced in 1991. A new student village will open next year and teaching accommodation is also being increased.
Students need not choose their honours subject until the end of their first year. Degrees will be fully modular by next year.

ULSTER
Coleraine, County
Londonderry BT52 1SA
(0265 44141)
Established 1984 from
merger of New University of
Ulster and Ulster Polytechnic
Full-time students: 5,557 (f),
4,497 (m)
4,758 arts, 3,003 sciences
Ulster suffers in the Times
rankings for concentrating on
the characteristics that made
the polytechnic the stronger
partner when the university

**THE TIMES GOOD
UNIVERSITY GUIDE** is edited
by John O'Leary



Lynne Truss

The way we retell fairy tales to today's children exposes our pressing social anxieties

At the cinema these days there is a rather peculiar advert for jeans. It is basically a witty rewriting of Cinderella, but since it appears to have been edited by a madman run wild with a bacon-slicer, the narrative unfolds so precipitately that it takes at least two viewings to get the gist. Anyway, it goes something like this. Clock strikes bong for midnight. Boy rushes off without his jeans. Girl holds jeans to face with funny wistful-but-determined look in her eyes, then hawks jeans around town, getting big fat men to try them on. Finally, she locates her beloved, who burns up a treat. And that's it. Allowing for how difficult it is to make trousers even slightly interesting, this ad is a huge success.

The thing about fairy tales, surely, is that they can be used to sell anything; indeed, it is almost their primary function. Anyone who thinks it is radical of the Disney studio to turn the heroine of *Beauty and the Beast* into a modern-thinking self-determined book-lover ("There must be more than this provincial life!" she sings discontentedly, several times), is right in only one respect. Yes, it is radical of the Disney studio. Previously Disney sold other things: now it is selling this. A generation of girls grew up believing that to be a heroine (Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty) all you required were a decent whistling technique, first-class handiness with a broom, and an ability to sleep for extended periods in a glass box without musing your make-up or dribbling on your frock. And as values go, these were probably OK for the time.

But my point is this. In the traditional folk tale, women were not these puny types. Big tears did not roll down their pretty faces, and they did not wear rouge. Instead, they rescued princes from enchantment, tipped witches into ovens, all that. The reason we know only of the rescuee-namby-pamby tales that we inherit our knowledge of folk tales from the Victorians, whose respect for divergent viewpoints, especially in the realm of sexual politics, was notoriously meagre. Funny how *The Sleeping Prince* got dropped from the canon, wasn't it? I wonder why.

But as Alison Lurie points out in her marvellous book on children's literature, *Don't Tell the Grown-Ups*, even the Grimm brothers tidied up the tales to reflect the mores. "In each subsequent edition of the tales," writes Lurie, "women were given less to say and do." At issue, of course, is whether it is cynical and outrageous to impose modern values on traditional stories. When George Cruikshank, the Victorian illustrator, rewrote four of his favourite fairy tales as temperance tracts, Charles Dickens countered with a brilliant essay, *Frauds on the Fairies* (1853), denouncing the practice. But what is odd now is to see how certain Dickens was that the versions he remembered from childhood were necessarily the originals. Cruikshank, thundered Dickens, "has altered the text of a fairy story; and against his right to do any such thing we protest with all our might and main... Whosoever alters them to suit his own opinions, whatever they are, is guilty of an act of presumption, and appropriates to himself what does not belong to him."

Dickens boiled with sarcasm ("Imagine a Total Abstinence edition of Robinson Crusoe, with the rum left out. Imagine a Peace edition, with the gunpowder left out, and the rum left in"; and then embarked on a thoroughly sardonic rewrite of Cinderella incorporating absurdly modish references to tax reform, vegetarianism and, interestingly, the rights of women. Cinderella, in this version, was a moral swot and reviler of meat, who on becoming queen did all sorts of absurdly modish things. She "threw open the right of voting, and of being elected to public offices, and of making the laws, to the whole of her sex; who thus came to be always gloriously occupied with public life and 'whom nobody dared to love'." It is the mark of a great writer that he allows his own imagination to scare him like this. Come to think of it, this must have been the version that was read to the infant Neil Lyndon in his cot.

Where does it all stop? Well it won't stop at all, of course. Walt Disney is supposed to have said, "People don't want fairy stories the way they were written. In the end they'll probably remember the story the way we film it anyway." But now Linda Woolverton, the scriptwriter of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, has started saying she would like to remake "the old Disney's," so it turns out that nothing is sacred after all. Cinderella, she says, needs to stand up to the ugly sisters, stop hanging around with mice, and not necessarily marry the prince. Hm. Snow White should not stay at home all day but work with her chums in the mines and marry one of the vertically challenged men with pickaxes. And lastly, Sleeping Beauty — the most famous inert character of them all — should "track down and personally punish" her wicked stepmother immediately she wakes up in the glass box. Whether she will punish her stepmother by making her watch the new version of Cinderella is not made clear.

I promise I didn't make any of this up. I just wonder how serious Linda Woolverton was when she said it. Currently she has been let loose by Disney on a remake of the famous animal adventure film *The Incredible Journey*, which seems at first glance to have fewer opportunities for political correctness, although the cat could have a wooden leg. Meanwhile, it ought to be said that Belle may indeed be a book-reader, who swoons at the sight of the Beast's enormous library, yet she is a traditional heroine in most other respects. She is kind, friendly, chaste with cockney tea-pots, and has enormous eyes. And of course she is ever so, ever so pretty. But then "Passable Looking and the Beast" doesn't have quite the same ring to it somehow.

The campaigners opposing a 24-hour news station are daft know-nothings, writes broadcaster Janet Daley

Radio 4 needs to change

I remember a letter published in a New York newspaper years ago which complained that the reader's favourite television quiz shows had been cancelled to make room for coverage of the "boring" presidential campaign. The editor described it in print as the best example of civic idiocy he had ever seen. But traits which in the United States are associated with morose couch potatoes seen here as a species of charm. Where else in the world would people take to the streets to demand not to be given a fuller news service? Mercifully, the BBC seems not to have buckled under the onslaught of this dotty campaign to keep up-to-date information away from the common herd.

In the early months of this year, came the surprising announcement that it would, after all, come to pass. And so, after there would be no untoward disruption of the nation's listening habits, the news channel would occupy only the long-wave frequency while Radio 4

FM went on as before. And were the twice-blessed audience happy? Not on your life. Not content with having their favourite programmes broadcast on one wavelength, the diehards were adamant that they should continue to monopolise both just in case they should, while on holiday in the outer Hebrides or in exile in the Dordogne, be deprived of *Gardener's Question Time*.

The argument from abroad has been one of the most militant voices in this eminently silly crusade. The fact that listeners in France are able to pick up Radio 4 on long wave is a bit of accidental good fortune which enables them to get a service for which they have not paid. It is absurd for them to regard access to this broadcast as an inalienable right which supersedes the chance to

give licence payers a greater variety of programming.

The wavelength question was one the BBC could not win. Had news radio taken over the FM band, the people now shrieking about losing the LW transmission would have been far outnumbered by those protesting that their radios did not even get LW. But what this is about is something far more fundamental to the British psyche even than *Desert Island Discs*. It is about resisting change, particularly an innovation which threatens to inundate one with unexpected and unsettling information which might, quite without warning, oblige one to do something.

As regular listeners will know, I am a Radio 4 broadcaster myself and when I am not on the air, I am usually listening, so my interests are pretty much

identical to those who are now agitating. But it seems to me to border on the loony to feel threatened by the trivial adjustments to listening habits which this new service may make necessary. What shocks me most about this determination to remain uninformed for as long as possible, is the failure to see that there is something which might be gained.

The British have a profound complacency and defeatism about information. Not only should you avoid questioning the amount and quality of it that is doled out to you, but there is something positively gauche about seeking it out. Thus, the most effective weapon against the idea of 24-hour news is a smug snigger, as if it were vulgar to want to know too much and to want to know it right now, rather than after it

has been predigested by the people in charge of what one ought to be told.

On Black Wednesday, while the pound went through the floor and interest rates through the roof, a happy few had up-to-the-minute information about what was happening. Apart from government officials and their acolytes, there were journalists, owners of satellite dishes and, most significantly, speculators in the city dealing rooms who had access to the wire services. But the ordinary Joe with a business hanging on by its fingernails and a mortgage in the stratosphere, had to sweat it out until the next scheduled news bulletin to find out whether he was still solvent.

One of the best things about a non-stop news and current affairs service is that, in a crisis, it gives politicians and their

henchmen fewer places to hide. Once the possibility is established of constant interrogation, and the right of the ordinary citizen to have information made available to him as quickly as to anyone else, a quite different sense of accountability can develop. Of course, the real threat to British official habits is that giving people immediate information might give them dangerous ideas about sticking their oar in.

After all, the best way to stop people making informed objections is to see to it that they know too little to do so. To avoid a well-founded critique of the Maastricht treaty, just avoid publishing it. Then you can always accuse its critics of being uninformed. And, of course, there is no point in listening to people who know so much less about what is going on than you do. So the political club and the economic manipulators would go their own way and the poor devils who had to take the consequences would hear about it only when it was too late.

Who won the great debate?

Anthony Howard, in St Louis, on Sunday night's spectacular

Like nearly all much touted political events the first of this year's presidential debates proved to be something of an anticlimax. That was partly the fault of the improbable figure who stole the show, Ross Perot. From the moment he walked down the hall three quarters of an hour early — receiving the plaudits of his supporters on the way — he had made up his mind that it was to be his night. And so indeed it turned out. Incisive, witty and never betraying the slightest sign of being intimidated, he effectively upstaged both of the main contenders. The spin doctors on either side almost tumbled over themselves in their eagerness to yield him the victor's palm.

The truth, of course, was that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats were too unhappy about that. Contrary to most of the excited journalistic speculation, they had not wanted this first debate to "define", as the jargon has it, this year's presidential election. The risks were altogether too great for that. Much better to agree to call it a stand-off and to point to the sparkling performance of Mr Perot as having detracted from the appeal (according to where you came from) of either President Bush or Governor Clinton.

Neither, in fact, disgraced himself. If the president never rose above his normal somewhat plaintive tone, the governor seldom contrived to sound anything else but prosaic. Afterwards, the mood was perhaps slightly more defensive in the Democratic camp than the Republican one; but that was probably because the president's supporters started from a lower base. Their genuine anxiety had always been that Bill Clinton — through youth, good looks or simply the brass confidence that comes from being ahead — would be able to use the occasion to borrow the jargon again to "clinch the deal with the American people". The Democratic candidate never quite managed to score that kind of decisive home-run.

But then, as his own psycho-



logical warriors tirelessly insisted, he hardly needed to do so. Never has the essentially cautious, almost complacent, nature of the campaign the Democrats are fighting this election been more vividly exposed than in the immediate aftermath of this first debate. No one is interested in what actually happened: the battle is about what people can be persuaded to believe they thought took place. To that end, the spin doctors swarm like locusts over the press camp followers just as soon as the proceedings are over. Normally, they are quite ready to claim a triumph where patently none existed. The most revealing aspect of the performance of the Clinton campaign's psychological warriors on this occasion was that they did not even feel the

need to bother to try. Yes, they conceded in effect, their man had not hit the ball out of the park. But it was George Bush who needed to do that. He, after all, was behind and, unless he could manage to pull something out of the bag, the election was virtually over. But it ought surely to be part of the job of a party challenging for power to engender an atmosphere of excitement and enthusiasm into any presidential campaign. And it is here that the Clinton effort has not only failed but appears now to have given up trying.

One of the most unattractive sights in politics is that of a party which seems to have settled simply for coasting to victory. It is also frequently perilous, as poor Neil Kinnock discovered to his cost last April. The Democratic campaign is certainly in

much better shape than Labour's was then: for one thing, it has enjoyed consistent poll leads of a steady 10 per cent for more than three months, whereas Labour never got more than one of 7 per cent.

It is not just a transatlantic analogy that Bill Clinton should worry about. There was once a Republican candidate for the presidency who behaved in very much the same way. His name was Thomas E. Dewey, defeated by Harry Truman in 1948. If he has any niche in history today, it is probably in Alice Roosevelt Longworth's description of him as "the man who fell off the wedding cake".

It is unlikely, no doubt, to portray Mr Clinton as any form of Dewey, though there are some liberal Democrats who are starting to regard him in much

the same light. True, their objection is largely doctrinal. Can there ever have been any other Democratic standard bearer who even contemplated making part of his appeal to the electorate his support for capital punishment? That is now being deliberately promoted by the Democrats in one of their 30-second spot commercials.

The uncomfortable truth is that a candidate, who chooses to renounce the whole ideological inheritance of his party, must always be in a vulnerable position. "We have risen above principle," some wag commented at the time of the Democratic Convention last July. Although the remark was delivered with a cheerful cynicism, it will undoubtedly come back to haunt the Clinton campaign if the Republicans manage to hold

onto the White House in November.

The balance of probability, even after the failure of the first debate to settle the issue, must still make that the less likely outcome. But there is another flaw in the opposition party's case. The Democrats have talked a great deal in this election of their horror of "negative campaigning". They have contrived to do so without a blush of hypocrisy — and the Bush campaign's clumsy efforts in this area have not made that too difficult for them. But what Mr Clinton's party has never been required to do is to address its attention to the essentially negative nature of its own appeal. Put brutally, they are fighting on one thing and one thing only — that their candidate is not George Bush.

In a curious way, that still leaves the initiative with the president. He may not have managed to do it on Sunday night but he only has to step out of character sufficiently for the mass of voters to revise their estimate of him.

It is possible that he went into the first debate feeling that his opponent had it in him to materialise as some kind of television Deposition. He can throw that apprehension away; if Mr Bush came over as the prisoner of his family self-righteous, peevish image, then Mr Clinton was no luckier in escaping from being the captive of his own slightly plastic one.

There is one lesson, though, that they could both equally learn from Ross Perot. If he emerged as the victor *lodum*, it was for a very simple reason. Having nothing to lose, he had grasped the one central fact about the proceedings and exploited it mercilessly. The silted, structured nature of the debate art-form means that the wise candidate simply ignores it. That is what Mr Perot did on Sunday night, addressing his remarks not to his colleagues but rather direct to the viewers.

He did it with charm, without side, and with sufficient appeal to make him the hero of the evening. He will be back the next time all three candidates meet on Thursday, but there is just a hint from within the presidential commission on debates that he may not, after all, be back for the last confrontation in a week's time. If he is not, then the candidate who most successfully takes a leaf out of his book could yet turn that debate into the definitive event of this election.

Lighting fires for Bush

ALTHOUGH George Bush remains far behind in the polls, Conservative Central Office was perfectly happy yesterday with its contribution to the President's appearance in the first of the big three television debates. Sir John Lacy, the veteran former Central Office director and Mark Fullbrook, the new head of campaigning, are claiming credit for at least two of Bush's main rhetorical thrusts — namely challenging Clinton as unpatriotic and branding him as a high-spend, high-tax politician. Both tactics were used to good effect in the last general election against Neil Kinnock and denounced angrily by Labour as "dirty tricks".

Lacy and Fullbrook were invited by the Republicans earlier this summer to advise the Bush campaign on the lessons to be learnt from the Tory victory in April. Lacy, who has fought every general election since 1950, says: "The greatest similarity between the Republicans and the Conservatives was that they went into the campaign having had years in power but behind in the polls.

Tax and trust worked for us whatever the media may say. I still think they can work for Bush."

But with Bush still behind do the Tory evangelists think the Republicans should now switch tack? Not at all. "On the day that came to be known as Black Wednesday, eight days before polling, we had fallen seven points behind," Lacy says. "Far from changing anything we just dove the tax-and-trust message home harder. That is what George Bush should do."

The Tory advisers, however, do not believe that Bush can rely on Clinton going over the top as Kinnock did at the infamous Sheffield rally. "I fear that in America it would have been a great success," Lacy says. "If Kinnock had been running for president instead of prime minister, far from damaging him, Sheffield probably would have swept him to victory."

Clinton cachet

MEANWHILE Oxford University is banking on a Democrat victory at the American polls next month — literally. If Bill Clinton secures the popular vote, the boy from Arkansas is understood to have promised his alma mater the benefit of both his name and campaign



DIARY

Is anyone there?

ANTI-terrorist squad officers picking through the debris of the car bomb blast in Marylebone last week thought they had struck lucky when they found a mobile telephone in the gutter only yards from the scene of the explosion.

Surprisingly the telephone was still working. Could it have been used by the bombers to keep in touch with their operational headquarters? The police pressed the recall button and were excited when it flashed up the last number dialled.

Scouting a quick success the officers promptly tracked down the address, which they hoped might identify the command behind the explosion which destroyed the car of Christopher Lennox-Boyd, cousin of the foreign office minister Mark Lennox-Boyd, who was dining with members of the exiled Yugoslav

royal family at the home of Lord Sudeley.

Plain clothes officers swooped on a fashionable house in Chelsea the next morning. Fortunately, before they began battering down the door, it was opened by the elegant figure of Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia, the Queen's cousin, who had been a guest at the Sudeley party. The mobile phone, far from belonging to a terrorist, was owned by John Kennedy, a former Tory parliamentary candidate, who was at the same party. Kennedy had rung the princess just before he left to check what everyone was wearing for dinner. "And what is more they still haven't given me my phone back", he says.

Sunset trap

AFTER much speculation Meryl Streep has agreed to play the lead role of Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new musical *Sunset Boulevard*, following in the steps of Gloria Swanson, who starred in the 1950 film production. Streep will take to the London stage for the first time next March in what could become Lloyd Webber's fifth concurrent London show. Norma Desmond is an ageing woman actress, waning in ability. De-

spite winning an Oscar nomination for playing her, Swanson found that her career went into similar decline from then on.

Sunset Boulevard... Wasn't that Gloria Swanson?



Charles Moore is clearly suited to his new role as editor of The Sunday Telegraph, a newspaper not known for its appeal to the working classes. Moore, who was due to take over as Washington bureau chief, clearly has better things to do with his weekends than shopping. At a Daily Telegraph conference last week, the editorial team was discussing a feature about people who use the huge DIY warehouse, B & Q. Moore looked up quizzically and asked: "What exactly is B & Q?"



NO ROUTE TO RECOVERY

■ The government is still too obsessed by inflation

Amid all the recrimination, self-justification and rewriting of history that took place at yesterday's grilling of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Treasury select committee, one vital question went unanswered. How do Norman Lamont and the government intend to return Britain to prosperity?

Mr Lamont's appearance before the select committee confirmed that the government's obsession is with squeezing inflation. No other goal plays a part in economic policy: not recovery, not the reduction of unemployment, not the protection from bankruptcy of Britain's productive base. Interest rates cannot be cut because they might lead the pound to fall, thereby stoking inflation. Public spending must be reined in to combat inflationary pressures. When the economy is flat on its back, the Chancellor is kicking it in the head. To maintain tight fiscal and monetary policy in the depths of recession is not just politically suicidal but sadistic.

Why this obsession with inflation? Low inflation is argued by some to be a necessary precondition of recovery, but it is by no means sufficient. A possible answer is that the prime minister and his colleagues have a hidden agenda, that of enabling the pound to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism as soon as circumstances permit.

That would explain why interest rates will be allowed to fall only alongside those of Germany. The Chancellor may have given up shadowing the Bundesbank. Those senior cabinet members who still approve of the ERM, such as Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, would not want British interest rates to fall sharply below Germany's. If a gap opened up, rates would have to rise again if Britain rejoined the ERM, thus compounding the political difficulties of re-entry.

Moreover, if sterling from now on remains relatively stable against the mark, these ministers will be able to argue more effectively for re-entry. They have perhaps managed to persuade John Major of their

case because he has so deep a hatred of inflation. Any policy that can be dressed up as an unwillingness to take risks with inflation would go down well with him.

The result of this ERM membership by the back door is that Britain has none of the advantages of membership and all the drawbacks of losing its freedom to make monetary policy. The Chancellor is not, as he boasted after withdrawal, putting British interests first. Yesterday, referring to calls to cut interest rates, Mr Lamont said he did not believe in "kick-starting the economy through some artificial stimulus or device". What could be more artificial than keeping interest rates at 9 per cent when inflation is at 3.6 per cent and private borrowing has collapsed along with house prices?

It is perfectly possible that if Mr Lamont cut interest rates dramatically, the pound would not even depreciate because investors would take it as a sign that recovery was on its way. It is also likely that depreciation would not feed through to inflation with demand this low. But Mr Lamont will accept neither argument. If, therefore, monetary policy must remain tight, then fiscal policy must not be allowed to depress the economy still further. More must be spent by the public sector on investment if private industry is to remain hobbled by high interest rates.

The government should target spending at the most depressed areas of the economy: housing and construction. For each unemployed builder taken back into work, the government would save £8,000 in benefit and lost taxes. Treasury officials should now try to redeem themselves after the debacle of their previous policy by devising cost-benefit analyses to assess the various merits of capital expenditure schemes.

Mr Lamont can no longer pretend that he bears no responsibility for bringing Britain out of recession. It is government policies that have crippled the economy. The government must now explain how it will put the economy back on its feet.

ALEXANDER'S DISPUTED LEGACY

■ Macedonia and Greece must both give ground

President Gligorov arrives in London this week to lobby the European Community to recognise his poor, landlocked and fragile former Yugoslav republic under the name it wants to adopt: Macedonia. Balkan policy will be one of the few non-Maastricht subjects raised at the Birmingham summit, and he deserves a sympathetic hearing.

For nine months his country has been in a legal limbo, no longer part of the old Yugoslavia but unrecognised by all but Turkey, Bulgaria and Russia. The reason is the implacable hostility of Greece, which insists that Macedonia is Greek and only Greek, and will not allow the name to be usurped.

Much ridicule has been poured on Athens. Critics accuse the Greeks of trying to patent the glory of Alexander the Great, risking conflict in the Balkan tinderbox over an alleged slight to a culture that flourished 2,300 years ago. The Greek government has handled the matter clumsily. Greece has been accused of attempting to bully its northern neighbour, while blackmailing its EC partners.

The Greeks nevertheless have a point, and one that has not been properly understood by northern Europeans no longer versed in the classics. Their argument is that by adopting the name arbitrarily assigned to southern Yugoslavia by Tito, the Slav immigrants to the area steal another nation's history, identity and all the myths, glory and territorial implications that go with it. Schoolchildren will be taught that every historical reference to Macedonia applies to their country. Over years the seeds

of irredentism will be sown. Already nationalists are producing maps of Greater Macedonia, calling for the unity of lands stretching from Serbia to Thessaloniki, from Bulgaria to Albania.

But for two things, the issue might seem a foolish Balkan spat. The first is the crucial role of Macedonia in the enforcement of sanctions against Serbia, and the second is the threat that the Yugoslav conflict will spread south with an explosion in Kosovo, Macedonia or both. Greece has cut off all oil going north, in response to international complaints that it was being sent on by Macedonia to Serbia; but as a result, Athens is accused of trying to strangle the new republic. Skopje needs to create a sense of identity in an area where the inhabitants are a mixture of Albanians, Bulgarians, Serbs, gypsies and others; already nationalist pressures are threatening the coherence of the state. If Albanians rise up in Kosovo, their kinsmen in Macedonia and Albania may swiftly be drawn in. Even a pragmatic Greek government will find it hard to remain uninvolved.

Britain, holding the EC presidency, has sent a diplomat to search for a compromise. The Greeks have already said they will accept a two-names formula: a formal name for external use, and the word Macedonia for internal use. President Gligorov should accept this. In the long run common usage is likely to bring him victory. In the short run, with his bankrupt economy depending on the goodwill of Athens, he would be foolish to inflame Greek passions further.

DEATH OF A SHOWJUMPER

■ In sport you sometimes have to shoot the horses

The death of a horse exercised the nation yesterday, when distressing pictures were printed of the Swiss gelding, Sir Arkay, breaking its leg at the Horse of the Year Show. It was destroyed at once. Sir Arkay was jumping off a novel ten-foot bank at the time, lost its footing halfway down and crashed to the ground, smashing its near foreleg. This was a young horse for this kind of specialised equestrian activity, and was not wearing studs in its shoes. The jump was removed from the competition, and will probably never be used indoors again.

It is a good horse that never stumbleth, according to the proverb recorded by John Heywood in 1546. Such show-jumping and racing horses are delicate and expensive machines, quick, agile, selectively bred for the only activities they are good at, and therefore naturally fragile on their fetlocks. They can easily break a leg by putting a foot down a rabbit-hole in the paddock. To mend such a fracture would take great veterinary skill, and entail keeping the horse's leg off the ground for at least eight weeks. It might just have been worth trying if the horse had been a stallion or a brood mare, but those seldom go in for the big jumps. Dead, Sir Arkay was worth many thousands of pounds from the insurers. It would have been Black Beauty sentimentality to try to keep the beast alive though crippled. Show-jumping is a serious business as well as a sport.

Human kind, especially the kind that goes to metropolitan equestrian contests, cannot bear very much reality. It prefers soppy Walt

Disneyland. What was sensational about Sir Arkay's death was not the event itself, but its proximity to a comparatively small indoor crowd in Wembley Arena, and the telescopic camera lenses. Horses die all the time at the hurdles and over the big jumps of Cheltenham and Aintree, though screens are usually put around the *coup de grace* there to protect the sensitivities of the punters.

This is not a tragedy in the strict acceptance of the word, but something that is bound to happen in equestrian sports. When equine casualties become too heavy, as in the Grand National, public outrage softens jumps such as Becher's, by making the unexpected drop at the far side less severe. This year when Party Politics won the Grand National, an almost unprecedented number of 22 out of 40 starters finished the course without falling over. The last time that a horse was killed at the Horse of the Year Show was nearly 20 years ago.

Sport is inevitably dangerous, especially when horses are taking part. In Britain the RSPCA protects animals from cruelty and unnecessary risk better than in most countries. The riders themselves refuse to go over jumps they consider too dangerous, as they did in a swamp at the National Championships a few years ago. Such horses are reared and fed and kept in clover only because of what they do. They have a far better life than the animals that supply the beef steaks and lamb chops for the British supermarkets. In France they would be steaks themselves.

In defence of the student unions

From Professor Earl Russell, FBA

Sir, In describing student unions as "the last closed shop" (leading article, October 8) I fear you have allowed yourself to be led astray by left-wing propaganda. Some 25 years ago it used to be fashionable for student unions to think of themselves as trade unions and to talk accordingly. This idea was always absurd, and long ago failed to survive contact with reality.

The government itself has argued that students have withdrawn from the labour market, so it is hard to see how they can be credited with having a trade union.

Student unions are representative bodies, which provide services to, and make representations for, their individual members. The proper analogy with student union membership is electoral registration. In this country electoral registration is, rightly, compulsory.

It is widely recognised that voluntary voter registration in the USA has reduced the quality of American democracy. Voluntary membership of the National Union of Students would have a similar effect.

There is no possibility of an adequate replacement for such things as the NUS and student union welfare services. As a university professor, I rely constantly on them to help my pupils when they need it.

If university authorities were forced to take over these services, they could not provide as good a service, nor one at as good a price. Attempts to do so could only be made at the expense of teaching.

Yours faithfully,
EARL RUSSELL,
House of Lords,
October 9.

From the President of the
National Union of Students

Sir, Your leading article claims that "each student's local authority automatically pays a fee to the campus union".

This has not been the case since the early 1980s, when Sir Rhodes Boyson introduced changes to the system. Student unions now receive their funding via block grant from their parent institution, in the same way that the library and other campus services are funded. This money comes from the Department of Education and has nothing to do with local authorities.

Schools and museums

From the President of the
Museums Association

Sir, Everyone concerned with museums' schools services — museum professionals, teachers, parents — must be made anxious by the statement in the government's white paper on education that increasingly the private sector will step in to provide museum services.

It is difficult to envisage any private-sector company finding financial attractions in such provision without charging heavily — and thereby pricing themselves beyond schools' budgets.

Most museum education services are dependent upon core funding by LEAs or local authorities. Like most public education services they are not and never can be self-financing, and

already we have the absurd situation whereby museums which are free of charge have to levy admission charges to school parties in order to offset some of the costs inherent in such visits. In other words, a coach-load of tourists do not pay while a coach-load of schoolchildren do.

The National Curriculum draws attention to the importance of object-based learning, and demand for museums' schools services has never been so high. They provide schoolchildren with unique learning opportunities. Unless the Department of Education and the Department of National Heritage ensure secure funding these services will simply disappear.

Yours sincerely,
SUE PEACE,
President,
The Museums Association,
42 Clerkenwell Close, EC1.

contain the grave to the commune of Ginchy for perpetual preservation and use... with the memorial cross and seat and its other present features... as a gift, upon... condition that the commune will preserve and care for it in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the inhabitants as a place of repose.

It was suggested that a small tablet be added to the memorial, recording the gift.

On October 6, 1948, it was accepted. The commune offered to meet the expenses of the tablet and the family was requested to draft the text.

This done, the commission bowed out and it is assumed that the plot remains the property of the commune of Ginchy, with all that the ownership entails.

Yours sincerely,
B. A. WEBB
(Information Officer),
Commonwealth War Graves Commission,
2 Marlborough Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire,
October 6.

colour of what was being said. But there is a further difficulty. Much of what is said is, in the quite literal meaning of the word, nonsense. I found this to be so some years ago when I acted as a temporary translator for the European Parliament. The translator is often presented with a dilemma: to translate nonsense in one language into nonsense in another, or to correct the nonsense in the course of translating it.

Either way, he may appear to some observers to have misunderstood the original.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PHILLIPS,
1 Post Office Cottage,
Shottenden, Cambridgeshire, Kent.

In yesterday's letter from Lord Shawcross, on rudeness in court, the quotation from

Caesar's comments should have read: "... of an ostrich, his head in the sand... exposing his thinking parts".

Euro-babble

From Dr David Phillips

Sir, The head of the European Parliament UK Information Office states in his letter of October 7 that EC-wide political debate is already alive and well in the European Parliament. Alive it may possibly be, but how well is open to question.

Meaningful debate is difficult enough in one language, but in nine languages it is doubtful whether it is at all possible.

I have spent a couple of afternoons in Strasbourg in the public gallery, and having moved in to the simultaneous translation between, for example, Greek and Italian or German and Portuguese, found that the syntactical and rhetorical difference between these languages forced the interpreters for much of the time to rely on a thesaurus of Euro-dichés to render the drift rather than the substance and

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Purpose of jail; and law on murder

From Mr William Payne

Sir, In "Theories of punishment rarely fit the crime" (October 3) Clifford Longley asserts that "the penal system still profoundly believes in" notions of punishment which have their origin in "medieval penitential codes". Such notions do not underpin the thinking and practice of today's prison service.

Notwithstanding the poor conditions in which we continue to imprison a comparatively high proportion of the population, men and women are sent to prison as punishment, not for punishment. I repudiate the idea that prison is, or should be, purgatorial. At the very least its aim is not to damage, and current thinking clearly signals its aim is to be purposeful. That the prison service may fall short of these aspirations does not negate the sincerity with which they are pursued.

Part of the difficulty the prison service experiences is that those on whose behalf it works seek nothing more of prisons than punitive containment. The thrust of the prison service's hope is its potential to diminish despair and suffering in prisons, and to rehabilitate prisoners.

Yours etc.,
WILLIAM PAYNE
(Assistant governor),
HM Prison,
Manchester,
October 5.

From Professor Glanville Williams,
QC, FBA

Sir, Your distinguished correspondents, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper and Professor Terence Morris (October 1),

Tobacco advertising

From Professor Richard Peto, FRS,
and others

Sir, In a 1990 poll, 64 per cent of British adults supported a ban on tobacco advertising and only 16 per cent opposed it. In 1992 the white paper on health, to be debated by the Commons on October 22, says that the government will review the effects of tobacco advertising, particularly on children, and consider what further steps are necessary.

Since advertisements affect the choice of cigarette brand substantially enough to justify the UK tobacco industry spending over £100 million a year on them, they must also affect the choice of whether or not to smoke — and since advertisements strongly affect the choice of cigarette brand among young people, they must also affect the choice of whether to start to smoke.

Thus there is no reasonable doubt that the current intense advertising and promotion of tobacco in Britain will be responsible for many future deaths, since a reduction of only a few per cent in the proportion who smoke would eventually avoid thousands of deaths a year.

Where, as in Britain, the government makes considerable efforts through health education and restrictions on sales to minors to discourage

teenage smoking, these are counter-balanced by the large resources deployed by tobacco advertisers.

The impending report of the chief economic adviser to the Department of Health on the likely impact on smoking of an advertising ban should be made available in full to MPs by October 22, so that the question of tobacco advertising can be properly debated.

Tobacco is currently responsible for about one third of all British deaths in middle age and the extent to which it is to be advertised should be a central issue in any debate on the health of the nation.

Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
Merton Gate, Gazeley Lane,
Cambridge,
October 2.

At present, when it is not clear that the jury will convict of the grave charge, the prosecution will often accept a plea of guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter, thus avoiding the distress of the full-scale trial for all concerned. This would not be possible under your correspondents' proposal.

Yours faithfully,
GIANVILLE WILLIAMS,
Merton Gate, Gazeley Lane,
Cambridge,
October 2.

Common values

From the Secretary-General of the
Order of St John

Sir, Many will be pleased when the line really is drawn under the Treasury/Bundesbank argument. This month should see the opening of a permanent new ophthalmic clinic in Gaza for some of the half-million refugees there, on the responsibility of the (British-run) St John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem. The main four contributors to start-up costs have been Her Majesty's government, the European Communities and, independently, the German government and the city of Berlin. A useful example of enduring common values perhaps for many years to come.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. EVERARD,
Secretary-General,
The Order of St John,
St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, EC1.

Eye to main chance?

From Mr T. N. Adam

Sir, Saturday, October 3, saw Patrick Serth, fund manager at Barings Asset Management, and Debbie Finlay, ditto at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, make a shrewd investment in each other by way of marriage, at which ceremony I was a guest.

The printer of the order of service, seemingly with an eye to the balance-sheet, set out the last two lines of the first verse of Sir Cecil Spring-Rice's hymn, "There is another country", to read

The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the financial sacrifice.

Was this a subtle attempt to emphasise the solemnity of "for richer, for poorer", or does it signify the beginnings of a revision of the English Hymnal more in tune with present austerity?

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS ADAM,
Brick Court Chambers,
15/19 Devereux Court, WC2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.



1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "Mr. J. H. Smith", "Mr. W. B. Jones", and "Mr. C. D. Brown".



Latest wills

Darlington: Co. Durham
£590.241
Mr Maurice Alfred Ransome
Chichester, West Sussex £571.2
Miss Marjorie Slater, of Bolton
Gosner Manchester £590.0
Effieide Taggezell, of London
NW3 £587.6
Mrs Cecilia Darwin Townsend
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey £722.3

**We accept
ACCESS, AMEX, DINERS and VISA.**

Lightning
Answers on page 21

NEWS

Jobless heads for record 3.4m

■ Unemployment in Britain is heading for a record high of more than 3.4 million as industrialists despair of any early recovery from the recession. Job losses are increasing at an average of 8,000 a week. Page 1

■ Norman Lamont survived a two-hour interrogation by senior MPs yesterday, including face-to-face calls for his resignation from some MPs. Pages 1, 2

Earthquake: 200 die in 60 seconds

At least 200 people were last night known to have been killed and 1,281 injured after a powerful, one-minute earthquake struck Egypt soon after midnight yesterday, security sources said. About 80 buildings collapsed or were damaged in the capital, Cairo. Page 1

Pub bombing

Lunchtime drinkers and diners at a public house in London's West End became the latest victims of the IRA as the terrorists switched their campaign to a random attack designed to cause maximum disruption. Page 3

Tank deal row

Britain's failure to win a £1 billion tank contract from Kuwait has led to accusations of political arm-twisting against Washington. Page 4

De Klerk terms

The gap between what the African National Congress wants and what the white government of South Africa wants to give them was made plain when President de Klerk spelt out what he wants to see agreed before a transitional government can be put in place. Page 9

Talks on Gorbachev

Andrei Kozirev, the Russian foreign minister, said yesterday that he had held a "frank discussion" with the British government on Russia's treatment of Mikhail Gorbachev, the former president as the row continued over an invitation to Mr Gorbachev to attend the memorial service for Willy Brandt. Page 10

Escape for boy

A five-year-old boy escaped with cuts and bruises after his mother reversed over him in the family car and then drove back over his body as he lay prone. Page 3

Koala plus stripes equals monkey

A new species of monkey, small enough to slip into a raincoat pocket, has been discovered in the Amazon, scientists claim. The monkey, which has a face like a koala and faint stripes, has been named *Marmoset marmoset* after its discovery by Marco Schwarz, a Swiss biologist, 800 miles upstream near the Maues river of the Amazon delta in Brazil. The find, published yesterday, brings the number of known monkey species to 140, of which nine are marmosets. Page 10

Plumber no cowboy

A plumber who sued Thames Television for calling him a "cowboy", claiming that he over-charged pensioners, won £5,000 in a High Court libel action yesterday. Sean Hannan, aged 29, said after the verdict: "I think justice was done." Page 3

Coal to...?

Nine British chefs and *The Times* cook took British cooking to the heart of Paris last night, aiming to prove once and for all that British cooking is not as soggy as our climate. Page 3

The miracle man

Deng Xiaoping has paid a high price for performing "miracles". James Pringle remembers the little man in sandals and white socks who has written himself large in China's affairs. Page 9

CFC ban earlier

Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is expected this week to announce the speed-up of plans to outlaw CFCs, a major threat to the ozone layer, bringing forward the ban by a full year. Page 4

Chess draw

The 18th game in the Fischer-Spassky chess championship ended in a draw, leaving Fischer seven to three ahead. Page 4

Nobel award

The Nobel prize for medicine was awarded to two American biochemists yesterday. Page 4



Frank Critchlow and his family in London yesterday after winning £50,000 for false imprisonment Page 5

Lucas: The company cut 4,000 jobs and announced plans to sell four businesses. It revealed that pre-tax profits had tumbled from £82.8 million to £22.5 million in the year to end-July. Page 23

Cave: A report from Charterhouse Bank lifts some of the gloom over Britain's car firms, who, says the report, could mount an export-led recovery next year to establish the nation as one of Europe's big motor manufacturers. Page 24

Strategy call: Neil Johnson, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, attacked the government's failure to provide an industrial strategy yesterday saying "the decline in the economy seems to have been accompanied by ministerial paralysis". Page 25

Hard sell: Graham Searjeant argues that a fresh campaign to widen ownership of shares must persuade companies to woo the individual investor. Page 27

Rugby: The shape of things to come, evident in the selection of the England team to play Canada on Saturday, was sustained yesterday when a party of 29 was named for training this weekend in preparation for England B's meeting with the South Africans at Bristol on November 7. Page 39

Show jumping: The death of a Swiss horse at Wembley highlights the fine line between safety and spectacle. Page 42

Disaster lottery: Compensation claims will soon be filed following the El Al disaster in Amsterdam. But what are the factors that decide who gets what? Often, pure chance plays a larger role than is generally understood. Page 35

Unit rights: Magistrates may be in for a shock when they do their sums to meet the new unit fines system. But at least the parents of offenders aged between 14 and 16 will discover there is a convenient loophole. Page 35

Law in short: The College of Law reports a rise in the number of students enrolling for finals courses... and when will the Law Society practise what it preaches? Page 35

Musical Theatre: David Robinson recalls the wartime radio favourites who inspired Radio Times, a new musical featuring the songs of Noel Gay and starring Tony Slattery, which opens at the Queens Theatre on Thursday. Page 31

Val Bourne, the organiser and guiding spirit behind Dance Umbrella, the largest dance festival in Britain. With the 15th opening tomorrow, Bourne talks to Debra Crane. Page 31

Theatre: Benedict Nightingale on a superb interpretation of *The House of Bernard Alba*. Page 30

Rock: Caroline Sullivan on Shamen, whose main fault is that they get up too early. Page 30

And finally (1) After 37 years in the front line of news, ITN is fighting for its life. Melinda Winstock reports. Page 32

And finally (2) John Cole, the BBC's political editor, retires, or at least semi-retires, after a distinguished stint in the job some said he wouldn't be able to do. Page 33

Maastricht v. Madonna: The Sunday newspapers that published the Maastricht Treaty had nothing, in circulation terms, on the ones that published Madonna's book about sex. Page 32

Men talk: Magazines aimed at men have gained ground in the past 10 years, but what does that say about the men? Page 33



Maestro of the baton: Sir George Solti, who is about to turn 80 years old, is Britain's most eminent conductor in residence. Richard Morrison met him. Page 29



Douglas Hurd, who accepted yesterday that some EC officials could be drawing up a secret agenda for an EC minus Britain should Maastricht fail. Page 10



Ross Perot, generally acknowledged to have outshone George Bush and Bill Clinton, at least in the one-liner stakes, in the first of the Presidential debates. Page 11



Senka Loosemore, one of the graphic art students who developed the concept for a stamp marking the inception of the single European market. Page 4

Contrary to the common perception, there may be no difference in the happiness of children of a single parent compared with those with two. Page 15

The guilty men

The deluge of leaks yesterday surrounding Norman Lamont hid a key truth: that the real culprits behind Britain's economic debacle are faceless Treasury officials who shape political ideas. Anatole Kaletsky reports. Page 14

Question begged

'Amid all the recommitment, self-justification and rewriting of history that took place at yesterday's grilling of the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Treasury select committee, one vital question went unanswered. How do Norman Lamont and his government intend to return Britain to prosperity?' Page 19

Hear Macedonia: 'President Gligorov arrives in London this week to lobby the European Community to recognise his poor, landlocked, fragile former Yugoslav republic under the name it wants to call itself Macedonia. He deserves a sympathetic hearing'. Page 19

ANTHONY HOWARD

'From the moment Perot walked down the hall three quarters of an hour early he had made up his mind that it was to be his night. And so indeed it turned out. Inevitable, witty and never betraying the slightest sign of being intimidated, he upstaged both of the main contenders'. Page 18

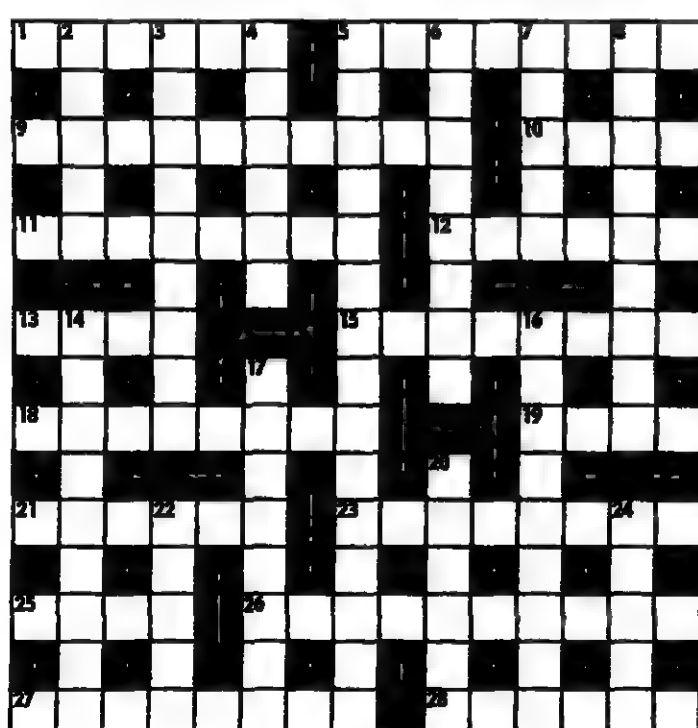
LYNNE TRUSS

'The thing about fairy tales, surely, is that they can be used to sell anything; indeed, it is almost their primary function. Anyone who thinks it is radical of the Disney studio to turn the heroine of *Beauty and the Beast* into a modern-thinking self-determined book-lover is right in only one respect'. Page 18

An assistant governor at Strangeways repudiates "the idea that prison is, or should be, purgatorial... The thrust of the prison service's hope is its potential to diminish despair".

Are student unions "the last closed shop"? No, declares Lord Russell and two union leaders. Page 19

TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,048



- ACROSS
- 1 Soldiers in groups around countries (6).
 - 5 Perhaps I could be blue (8).
 - 9 On the allowance from Hoinon? (10).
 - 10 Birds are broody, we hear (4).
 - 11 Persistent objections (with backing) produced (8).
 - 12 Small island - it's solitary (6).
 - 13 Dress is worn by artist in retirement (4).
 - 15 Provide gloss and tan at one resort (8).
 - 18 Tire with noisy talk and crying (6).
 - 19 Retreating creatures warbled (4).
 - 21 A site for a road (6).
 - 23 Make hostile force finally line up on the way (8).

- DOWN
- 25 Workman writing cards (4).
 - 26 Hard work plus energy goes to make such things as soap and talk (10).
 - 27 Detachment engaging guerrilla leaders noisily attacked base (8).
 - 28 Stressful suggestion about the team (6).
 - 29 Health food (5).
 - 30 Outless man, Gilbert - flustered and shaky (9).
 - 31 Endured being put in a pigtail (6).
 - 32 Serial with an end rewritten to just avoid indecency (4,4,3,4).
 - 33 A liking for bird song (8).
 - 34 Foot in the right (5).
 - 35 Trier went wrong, in other words (9).
 - 36 Ease up a short distance, fly around (9).
 - 37 She's willing to try a practical joke or two, by the sound of it (9).
 - 38 Gifted relation given new name (8).
 - 39 Declare at cricket (6).
 - 40 In liquidation, a director touches rock bottom (5).
 - 41 Inexperienced environmentalist (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,047

CHARM REPRESENT
AD A A A A A A A
RUMINANT SMEAR
T I T T T T T T T
OUTFIT SIDESHOW
U C O D A
COMPLIMENT ONCE
H O A N A R T I N
EDDY DISTRESSED
E M P E L O
T O R E A D O R F E L L O W
A R T S V V M
INTER EXTRADITE
E O N I N N
FIREWATER TIGHT

Concise Crossword, page 44

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
West Midlands	702
East Midlands	703
North East	704
North West	705
Yorkshire & the Humber	706
East of England	707
West of England	708
South East	709
South West	710
Wales	711
Scotland	712
Northern Ireland	713
London & SE traffic, roadworks	714
C. London (within N & S Cross)	715
W. London (within N & S Cross)	716
N. London (within N & S Cross)	717
N. London (within N & S Cross)	718
N. London (within N & S Cross)	719
N. London (within N & S Cross)	720
N. London (within N & S Cross)	721
N. London (within N & S Cross)	722
N. London (within N & S Cross)	723
N. London (within N & S Cross)	724
N. London (within N & S Cross)	725
N. London (within N & S Cross)	726
N. London (within N & S Cross)	727
N. London (within N & S Cross)	728
N. London (within N & S Cross)	729
N. London (within N & S Cross)	730

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0838 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Cross)

W. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

N. London (within N & S Cross)

England and Wales will be dry with sunny spells, especially in the South. Early morning mist or fog will soon clear. Northern England will become cloudier, with patchy drizzle. It will be cloudy over northern Scotland with light rain and drizzle moving into southern Scotland and Northern Ireland by evening, followed by clearer weather, with showers in the north. Outlook: patchy rain moving southwards, then windier and colder with showers.

MONDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

TUESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

THURSDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

FRIDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SATURDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SUNDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

MONDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

TUESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

THURSDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

FRIDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SATURDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SUNDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

MONDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

TUESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

THURSDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

FRIDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SATURDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SUNDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

MONDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

TUESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

THURSDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

FRIDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SATURDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

SUNDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

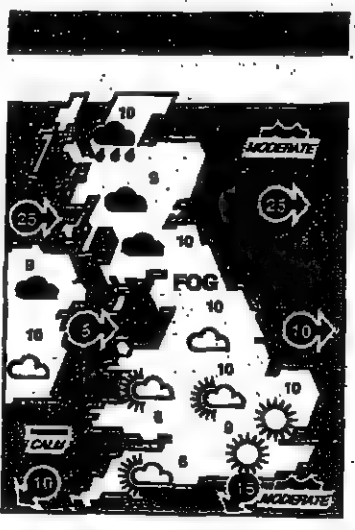
MONDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

TUESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

THURSDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.

FRIDAY: 1-4 drizzle, 5-10 drizzle, 11-12 drizzle, 13-14 drizzle, 15-16 drizzle, 17-18 drizzle, 19-20 drizzle, 21-22 drizzle, 23-24 drizzle.



London 6.11 pm to 7.23 am

Bristol 6.17 pm to 7.42 am

Manchester 6.17 pm to 7.42 am

Perthshire 6.36 pm to 7.43 am

Run times: 7.22 am, 6.11 pm

Moon sets: 8.27 am, 6.29 pm

Last quarter October 19

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C,



MEDIA 32-33

King Cole, hondootedly the best



ARTS 29-31

Sensuality, women and Lorca



SPORT 39-44

After Wembley: the perils for horse shows

Law on Tuesday p35-37

THE TIMES

2

TUESDAY OCTOBER 13 1992

Operations to be sold as profits slump and eight plants are set to close

Lucas shake-up wipes out £90m pension surplus

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

Lucas becomes the latest British household name to spend vast sums on restructuring

LUCAS Industries, the automotive and aerospace engineer, is cutting 4,000 jobs and selling four businesses as part of a sweeping restructuring.

The blow came as Lucas announced that pre-tax profits had tumbled from £82.8 million to £22.5 million in the year to end-July. At the trading level, profits fell from £131.9 million to £84.6 million. The company saw a £90 million exceptional gain from a much-disputed pension fund surplus but had to set aside £88.4 million for the restructuring.

Lucas, one of the industry's leaders with an outstanding record on investment and research and development, employed almost 90,000 people at its peak a few years ago. By the time the latest job cuts are implemented over the next two years that number will be 46,000.

Sir Anthony Gill, the chairman and chief executive, said the job cuts, of which 1,250 had been carried out, had not yet been fully identified, nor the "relevant workforces" identified. But half would be in Britain, where eight plants would shut to add to a similar number already closed overseas. The rest would be lost among overseas employees.

Lucas, widely seen in the City as a takeover target, is maintaining last year's dividend, a 4.9p final making a 7.0p total, and is indicating that this year's payment will also be held. Sir Anthony said: "We are aiming to restore earnings to cover a maintained dividend and are committed to a dividend policy which rewards our owners for

their long-term interest and investments in the company." But observers said the payout, while arguably justified on the long-term trading prospects, was as much aimed at providing the first buttress of a defence against any hostile takeover. David Manning, director of UK equities at Legal & General, said: "It's slightly optimistic, given the outlook for world trade."

Unions reacted with dismay to the latest job cuts. Tim Webb, national officer of the white collar Manufacturing Science and Finance Union, said he was running out of words to describe job losses in the engineering and aerospace industries. "This is yet another body blow for British engineering, and highly skilled engineers and technicians will be among those losing their jobs," he added. Unions, which have a meeting with Lucas planned for December, are now seeking urgent talks before then.

Lucas, which as part of its restructuring will focus more strongly on its core aerospace and automotive engineering businesses, will sell at least four companies and probably more by the end of the current year as a result, to raise £100 million. The four to go are the fluid power distribution business, the largest with annual sales of about £100 million,

Autocentres in Britain, a missile casing manufacturer and the aircraft transparency operation. Still more disposals are then likely.

The jobs that will be lost in Britain will be at the two core businesses. Aerospace factories making engine and electronic systems are mainly in Birmingham and at Netherthorpe and Highthorpe in Merseyside, and there is a wing controls operation in Wolverhampton. Car diesel injection equipment is made at Sudbury, in Suffolk, and there are other automotive plants at Gillingham, Kent, and Pontypool, Gwent.

Sir Anthony, who confirmed he would be staying as chairman and chief executive for at least another year despite expectations in the industry that he would be retiring from the latter post at the end of this year, said although there were signs of an upturn on the diesel equipment and aerospace spares sides, there was no indication of a general improvement in trading. "Indeed, some markets, such as the UK, Germany and Italy, seem to be deteriorating further. Under these circumstances, we must expect our first half to be little better than last year's," he added.

But the restructuring and the recent exchange rate upheavals raised the possibility that more components could be sourced from Britain. Sir Anthony said: "If the Chancellor and the government are successful in keeping inflation down, the UK should remain a good place to be as a manufacturing base."

Tempos, page 26



Staying put: Sir Anthony Gill yesterday said he would remain in control at Lucas

Cautious Lamont fails to impress

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City was little moved by the latest guidance on economic policy from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, as the few details provided nothing to give the financial markets new direction.

The pound held up well against the mark. After opening just below DM2.50, it climbed to DM2.5106 by the 4pm London close, less than half a penny down from Friday, despite the dim view economists took of Mr Lamont's new policy framework.

At his appearance before the Commons Treasury and civil service select committee yesterday, Mr Lamont underlined the importance he attached to the exchange rate, especially the trade-weighted index. The index ended unchanged at 82.8. Against the dollar, the pound strengthened more than a quarter of a cent to \$1.7015.

Mr Lamont appeared to advocate caution over more interest-rate cuts, despite the persistent weakness of the economy. But speculation of an early cut has not died, even if any move is considered unlikely until after Thursday's Bundesbank council meeting.

Underlying inflation data for September dropped into the official 1-4 per cent target range, fuelling hopes of a base-rate cut. But the Bank of England sought to dampen expectations. The money markets pointed to a base rate slightly below the current 9 per cent. David Simmonds, economist at Midland Montagu, saw little to push sterling higher. The market was thin because of America's Columbus Day holiday.

Nick Stamenkovic, economist at DKB International, said that with nothing to suggest action for growth, there was a "risk that we could enter a further down-leg of recession".

Stock market, page 26

TODAY IN BUSINESS

SHARE CARE



Companies must learn to welcome private shareholders if wider share ownership is ever to recover
Page 27

FIRST GEAR

British car manufacturers could be exporting their way to recovery next year, says a new report
Page 24

UNDER FIRE



Kuwait's decision against Sir Colin Chandler and Vickers may hurt other defence contractors
Page 25

LAW TIMES



New unit fines could provide a second shock for parents of young offenders, warns Paula Davies
Page 35

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7015 (+0.0035)
German mark 2.5106 (-0.0041)
Exchange index 82.8 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1878.8 (+13.6)
FT-SE 100 2557.2 (+16.0)
New York Dow Jones 3165.76 (+29.18)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17302.01 (+242.23)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 8%
3-month interbank 8.75-9%
3-month eligible bills 8.75-9%
US Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds rate 5.75-6%
3-month Treasury Bills 2.83-2.91%
30-year bonds 9.5-9.75%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.7015
£ DM2.5106
£ SfrF2.2324
£ FFfr6.5650
£ Yen206.10
£ Index 82.8
ECU 10.736074
ECU12.77018
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$348.70 PM \$346.50
Close \$345.40-345.90
£202.60-203.10
New York:
Comex \$344.55-345.45*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.80/bbl (\$20.85)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 130.4 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

MMI talks with Zurich welcomed

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities have given an "initial welcome" to news that Municipal Mutual Insurance (MMI) is talking to Zurich Insurance Group, Europe's fourth largest insurer, about a possible rescue takeover of MMI's local authority business.

Chaos was brought to local authorities last month when MMI, the company that provided 90 per cent of their public and employee liability cover, temporarily ceased paying claims. Huge losses at MMI in 1990 and last year pushed MMI to the brink of collapse after rescue talks with a French insurance group fell through.

Dennis White, chief executive of Zurich Insurance in the UK, said: "There are still a number of issues (outstanding), but subject to these being resolved we shall be able to offer insurance cover to local

authorities on realistic terms before the year end." Zurich is also considering taking on MMI's personal lines business specialising in local authority employees.

However, any deal that is struck is likely to include an element of ring-fencing of claims dating from policies written before the takeover.

Mike Grealy, of the Association of County Councils, said most local authorities would now decide to wait to see the outcome of the talks rather than seek new cover in the open market.

Zurich Insurance has about 2 per cent of the UK general insurance market and last year had premium income in the UK of £480 million out of a Zurich Group global total of £8 billion. In June, a senior executive was quoted as saying that the company was looking to expand in the UK.

Recession comes to Price Waterhouse

By JON ASHWORTH

PRICE Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, has recorded its lowest rise in annual fee income in five years. But a big rise in corporate recovery work, notably the administration of Maxwell Communication Corporation, made up for the general slowdown.

The firm made £395.1 million in the year to end-June, a 2 per cent rise on the £388 million of the previous year. Partners blame the recession, more competition and lower margins. They said they were lucky to record a rise at all in the current environment. PW did not release details of annual fee income prior to 1988. In the previous three years, fee income more than doubled from £185 million to £388 million. In 1991, revenue rose 21 per cent.

Ian Brindle, senior partner, said the results reflected the full impact of the recession.

"Our fortunes follow those of our clients, and there is no sign from our clients' businesses that we can look forward to any upturn in the short to medium term," he said.

Audit and business advisory services, accounting for 34 per cent of all fee income, fell 2 per cent to £136.7 million. Management consultancy dipped 5 per cent to £97.3 million, and tax consultancy rose 3 per cent to £105 million. Corporate recovery fees increased 31 per cent from £30.6 million to £40.1 million.

Fee income from corporate finance and privatisation services was £16 million, an increase of 19 per cent from £13.4 million in the previous period. PW acted as lead advisers on 82 transactions with a total value of £950 million compared with 62 transactions last year worth £570 million.

German coal aid angers British miners

By NEIL BENNETT



Lynde members dismayed

THE European Commission has approved a DM12.43 billion grant by the German government to the country's coal mining industry as British Coal is about to announce plans to close 30 pits at the cost of at least 25,000 jobs.

News of the grant is expected to cause fury among miners and union leaders. The National Union of Mineworkers is already considering strike action to protest against the closures.

The commission approved the aid at a regular meeting two weeks ago. Most of the money will go towards subsidising the supply of German coal and coke to the steel

industry. A further DM133 million is intended to protect underground jobs in Germany's deep mines.

The commission is still considering a further request by

the German government to subsidise coal production.

The Union of Democratic Mineworkers, headed by Roy Lynde, was quick to contrast the German government's aid package with the lack of government support for the British coal industry. Neil Greaves, president of the Nottinghamshire section, said it sickened him that the German coal industry was so heavily subsidised, and called on the government to intervene in talks between British Coal and the generators.

"People are criticising the Germans for high interest rates but you cannot blame them for looking after their own industry. Short-term politics by the government

are ruining the coal industry," he said.

The German grant has been allowed by the commission as part of the subsidies that all member states are allowed to give to their energy industry. The British government uses its allowance on the non-fossil fuels levy, which adds 11 per cent to electricity bills and subsidises nuclear power and renewable energy sources.

The commission has approved the use of the nuclear levy until 1998 and the British government is now lobbying Brussels to have it extended for renewable energy beyond the deadline. The government is also thought to be keen to extend the nuclear levy beyond the deadline.

What Do You Get From A Stockbroker That Doesn't Give Advice?

Fidelity Stockbroking Service

- Up to 68% savings on commission
- Dedicated dealers
- Real time trading information
- Trading all UK securities
- Weekend order taking
- 0800 Callfree number

Stockbroking PLUS

- Frequent dealing commission credits
- Trading all US securities
- Trading on 11 European markets
- Money Market cash settlement account
- Client Reporting Package

If you make your own investment decisions, Fidelity's Stockbroking Service can offer you substantial savings:

Investment (UK Securities)	Typ. Traditional Stockbroker Commission	Fidelity Commission	Savings
£2,000	£43	£25	42%
£5,000	£84	£50	40%
£10,000	£159	£65	59%
£20,000	£311	£75	68%

And now, for the frequent or international investor seeking extra convenience, there's Stockbroking PLUS.

As part of one of the world's largest investment management groups, you can trust Fidelity Brokerage to have the resources and expertise you need.

For a brochure and application, call us free of charge on 0800 414191 NOW.

* Based on an August 1992 Fidelity survey of adviser and discretionary commission rates of 10 representative stock-broking firms. This advertisement is issued by Fidelity Brokerage Services Limited, member of The London Stock Exchange and The City.

Callfree 0800 414191
9am - 9pm (7 days)

To: Fidelity Brokerage Services Limited,
Freepost, London EC3B 3DD

Please send me a brochure and application for Fidelity's new Stockbroking Service and Stockbroking PLUS.

Mr/Ms/Ms (Please print)

Address

Postcode

Tel No. () Day/Even (please circle)

(so that we may call you to answer any questions you may have)

Fidelity Brokerage

UK car sales may recover by next year

The British car industry could recover next year and the year after. Company cars which have been kept for longer than usual will finally be replaced with new ones

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S car firms could mount an export-led recovery next year to establish the nation as one of Europe's big motor manufacturers.

A report for Charterhouse Bank blows away some of the gloom hanging over a demoralised motor industry hit by plummeting sales, redundancies and short-term working. The report predicts a slight recovery in 1993 to 1.7 million sales of new cars, above the 1.55 million expected this year, the worst performance for a decade.

Charterhouse then expects sales to peak in 1994 at 2.1 million, mainly driven by sales to companies who have kept fleet cars longer than usual in a four-year replacement cycle because of the recession.

Business sales are likely to fall 40 per cent from the 1988 peak to 780,000 this year but could hit 1.2 million in 1994, said James Morrell, the report's author. By 1997, the UK market will have stabilised at 1.8 million sales annually and apart from domestic growth exports will improve and imports fall.

Charterhouse predicts imports, currently about 55 per cent of all sales, could fall to

below 50 per cent as Japanese makers start to replace overseas product with new cars built in UK "transplant" factories. At the same time, the Japanese transplants founded by Honda, Toyota and Nissan will drive UK production towards annual output of 1.7 million cars from the 1.55 million expected this year. Charterhouse says the Japanese will account for almost all of the rise as output from Ford, Vauxhall and Rover almost stands still. The contribution from the transplants, coupled with more exports aided by the devaluation of sterling, could push overseas sales towards 900,000 cars a year or 40 per cent of total output compared with the current level of about 32 per cent.

With no unforeseen and substantial changes to European markets, Charterhouse predicts UK output could reach 1.9 million cars a year by the year 2000, the highest level since 1972. But manufacturers remain gloomy that the uncertainty in the British economy may not bring a revival in 1993. Sales are falling this year from a predicted 1.75 million to 1.55 million, 400,000 down on last year.



Mine host: John Brackenbury behind the bar at the Tap & Spile pub, Heathrow

Pubmaster pulls more pints

By PHILIP PANGALOS

JOHN Brackenbury, the chairman of Pubmaster, Brent Walker's fast-growing public house retailing division, believes the wide variety of traditional ales served by the group's Tap & Spile operation will play a key role in future expansion.

Pubmaster has taken advantage of opportunities that have come its way as the November deadline approaches for complying with the government's Beer Orders, requiring brewers to free of the half the number of pubs owned above a ceiling of 2,000. The independent pub

operator has more than doubled the size of its national estate to 1,983 pubs in less than a year, making Pubmaster Britain's largest independent pub retailer. Mr Brackenbury does not intend to stop there. He has optimistic plans to expand the number of Pubmaster's outlets, with a target of 3,500 pubs by the end of 1993.

Tap & Spile, Pubmaster's managed house brand, is very much a traditional ale house serving a wide variety of ales on hand pumps, ranging from well-known brands to the more exotically-named

Daleside's Old Legover, Willie Warmer and Santa's Ruin. The ales at the Tap & Spile houses are rotated, with some pubs boasting as many as 400 different ales served at one time or another.

The Tap & Spile operation presently consists of 23 public houses — the latest pub was opened in Sheffield last Thursday. Two more pubs will be opened this week, one in Ipswich tomorrow and one in Bury on Friday, and there are plans to expand further, with about 40 Tap & Spile pubs anticipated by the end of next year.

Dividend is held at Walker Greenbank

By MARTIN BARROW

WALKER Greenbank, the commercial wallcoverings group, reported a slight improvement in trading over the past two months. Despite the depressed economy, the company proposes to continue launching products and to evaluate opportunities for acquisitions in Britain and mainland Europe.

The interim dividend is held at 1.2p a share after a rise in earnings from 2.00p a share to 2.11p. Pre-tax profits rose to £2.84 million (£2.65 million turnover was £29.51 million (£30.4 million)).

Operating profits rose from £2.85 million to £3.05 million, but the benefit was partly offset by a rise in interest charges from £83,000 to £301,000 after the final payment of £3.2 million arising out of the acquisition of Bryant Corporation in 1991.

Wallcoverings experienced a fluctuating sales pattern. After a strong first quarter, sales declined in May and June as business and consumer confidence evaporated after the general election.

Half-yearly sales increased from £24.34 million to £25.47 million, with a first-time contribution from the Harlequin distribution company in Germany.

Operating profits rose 11.1 per cent to £3.80 million, reflecting tight cost controls and the benefit of last year's reorganisation.

Ex-Canary Wharf chief makes plea to Treasury

THE former chief executive of Canary Wharf has written to Michael Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury, imploring him to support the extension to the Jubilee Line and the relocation of 2,000 civil servants to Docklands. Michael Dennis, who still works for Canary Wharf, developer, Olympia & York, told Mr Portillo that while the current talks turn on apparent savings to the government of £1.6 billion if the extension were to be abandoned, offering credits will return £742 million.

In the letter Mr Dennis said the rehousing of the civil servants from the Department of the Environment had been Mr Portillo's idea while he was minister of state for Docklands. Mr Dennis also pointed out that for every £3 of additional rents that the Jubilee Line produces, the government will receive £1 of rates.

Siemens to cut 3,500

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, said weak demand would force it to cut 3,500 of the 13,300 jobs in its worldwide semiconductor operations over the next five years. Operating losses in semiconductor continued through the year ended September 30, but Jürgen Knorr, head of the division, dismissed speculation in the German press that the losses have reached around DM1 billion. Herr Knorr said the world market could grow up to 7% this year.

S Lyles raises payout

S LYLES is raising its dividend after lower interest costs and an exceptional £260,000 insurance gain helped the yarn spinner and dyer lift pre-tax profits +0.3 per cent to £1.14 million in the year to end-June, despite a slight drop in turnover to £16.7 million (£17.1 million). Earnings climb to 10.66p a share, up from 7.42p last time. The final dividend is raised to 3.35p (2.95p) a share, giving an improved total of 4.90p (4.45p) for the year. The shares firmed 1p to 100p.

EC studies Irish aid plan

THE European Commission has opened an enquiry into an Irish government plan to bail out companies struggling to keep their sales to Britain — their biggest export market — competitive after the pound's slide. "The proposal to grant 50 Irish punts a week per employee to companies hit by the devaluation of sterling involves state aids which will have to be examined by the commission," said Sir Leon Brittan, the EC commissioner in charge of competition policy.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS		10		11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20		21		22		23		24		25		26		27		28		29		30		31		32		33		34		35		36		37		38		39		40		41		42		43		44		45		46		47		48		49		50		51		52		53		54		55		56		57		58		59		60		61		62		63		64		65		66		67		68		69		70		71		72		73		74		75		76		77		78		79		80		81		82		83		84		85		86		87		88		89		90		91		92		93		94		95		96		97		98		99		100	
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																												
ABN AMRO UNIT TRUST MANAGERS	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50																																																																																																																																														

Ministerial paralysis is hurting industry says engineer chief

By Patricia Tehan

NEIL Johnson, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, attacked the government's failure to provide an industrial strategy yesterday saying "the decline in the economy seems to have been accompanied by ministerial paralysis".

His comments came as the EEF's latest *Engineering Economic Trends* report showed British industry is still in recession. The usually moderate Mr Johnson, former Rover European operations director who took over at the EEF in July, said yesterday employers have had enough of waiting. "We need, and we need urgently, a clear vision of the priority actions necessary to bring about lasting economic recovery. Not just action by industry but by government and the city too," he said.

The EEF is to produce its own industrial strategy which it will deliver to the government in six weeks' time. Mr Johnson said the two main points of the strategy will be recommendations for "immediate action to rectify the balance of payments as one feature and continuous long-term development of technology and industry as the other".

Engineering employers think the government is dithering over reviving the economy and want to see urgent manufacturing infrastructure investment

The EEF wants to see more investment in manufacturing: "urgently needed improvements to an ailing infrastructure; and investment in people so that they are equipped with the necessary skills to do the jobs demanded by a modern industrial economy."

"There is growing evidence that skills are now going to waste. Companies are doing everything possible to retain their skilled employees, but with falling demand and a shrinking manufacturing base that is no easy task. If those skills are lost, I fear for our industrial future," he added. The time for words from the Treasury and the trade

department is over, he said. "Their massive resources are not being well used to support UK industry. This must change." He added that further job cuts are on their way.

The EEF's economic trends survey shows 265,000 engineering jobs have gone over the last two and a half years. The report forecasts an additional 55,000 fall in jobs in the next 12 months. The EEF estimates employment in the fourth quarter of 1992 will be 100,000 lower than it was 12 months earlier.

The survey showed the UK engineering industry reached the bottom of the recession only in the second half of 1992, six months later than forecast in its last report in the spring. The report forecasts that in the 12 months to end-June 1993, total engineering output will rise 3 per cent.

This increase depends critically on a recovery in the motor vehicles industry. Without this recovery, it forecasts a reduction in engineering sales during the 12 months.

After the devaluation of sterling last month, UK engineering export prices are "substantially more competitive than at any other time during the last four years", the EEF said. It estimates UK export cost-competitiveness is as good now as at any time since before 1980.

UK engineering exports fell 3 per cent during the three years to 1992. The EEF forecasts a 1 per cent rise in the year to end June. The value of UK imports of engineering products fell 13 per cent in the same period, reflecting the effects of the recession, which saw the market fall by 17 per cent. The EEF forecasts a 4 per cent increase in imports in the 12 months.

Engineering Economic Trends, E35, EEF, Broadway House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NQ.

Comment, page 27



Other Middle East orders now under threat: Sir Colin Chandler, chairman of Vickers

Defence industry reeling over lost Kuwaiti tank order

By Patricia Tehan

BRITAIN'S defence industry is reeling from the shock of yesterday's announcement by the Kuwaiti government that Vickers has lost a prestigious £1 billion tank order to General Dynamics, the American supplier.

The decision throws into question Vickers' bids for orders worth more than £3 billion from potential customers in Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Given the American political muscle applied to the Kuwaitis, it also puts a question mark over the memorandum of understanding signed by Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, and the Kuwaitis last month. The exchange of letters demonstrated the Kuwaiti intention to continue to buy arms from the United Kingdom.

It also puts the spotlight on BAE's failure to sign up the long-awaited phase of its Al Yamamah contract with Saudi Arabia. BAE acts as main contractor in UK defence supplies to the Saudis.

The Al Yamamah contract is its biggest money earner and delays in signing this second phase have spinoffs for its many subcontractors including big names like GEC and Rolls-Royce.

Pete Deighton, an engineering analyst with Smith New Court, the broker, described the Kuwait decision to take M1A2 battle tanks from General Dynamics as a blow to Vickers.

He said if the Kuwaitis had picked Vickers' Challenger 2, then it would have made it more likely that the Omanis, Saudis and UAE government would have followed suit.

Mr Deighton said Vickers will be in trouble if it does not get a large Challenger export order soon. "To make money they need to increase production of the tanks," he said.

Vickers is determined to press on with its bids with the other three. It has completed trials for contracts for the supply of 390 tanks to the UAE, more than 200 to Saudi Arabia and 60 to Oman.

An official said the company is not expecting any decision until next year. A spokeswoman said the company would not be forced to cut any of the 1,800 jobs from its two fac-

ories in Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne immediately. It has contracts in place to provide work for the next year.

Vickers had also been pinning its hopes on a contract with Sweden, but was forced to pull out in the summer when it could not provide a tank for trials because prototypes were involved in trials in the Gulf.

This time last year British Aerospace gave assurances that there would be progress on the next £20 billion phase of its Al Yamamah contract by Christmas.

The company is counting on a follow-on order for its Tornado bombers to keep production going at its Warton plant. It is still waiting for the Saudis to sign an order for 48 Tornados and 60 Hawk aircraft, worth billions of pounds. Yesterday, observers said the Hawk deal may be on its way, but the Tornado contract still appears to be some way off.

In April the Saudis injected \$1.5 billion into the Al Yamamah programme. The move was expected to lead to a quick signing of contracts for United Kingdom supplies.

BAE is paid from the proceeds of the sale of Saudi oil. A few months ago there was talk that the Saudis were to lift the supply of oil from 550,000 barrels a day to 800,000 to finance the second phase of the contract, but so far that has not materialised.

Much of the delay is for political reasons. The Saudis are playing the British government off against the Americans, who are keen to supply the F-15 bombers. The F-15 deal has been cleared by Congress and has the backing of George Bush.

The Vickers setback, combined with uncertainty over Al Yamamah, is damaging to the many other defence industry suppliers.

Westland is still waiting for the Saudis to confirm an order for 88 Black Hawk armed helicopters which it manufactures under licence from Sikorsky of the United States. Vospers Thornycroft is waiting for the second half of an order to supply six minehunters.

Kuwait accused, page 4
Comment, page 27

Trafalgar considers call for board seats

By Neil Bennett

TRAFALGAR House, the engineering and construction group, will decide in the next 24 hours whether to accept Hongkong Land's call for seats on the board after a key meeting between the two sides yesterday.

At the meeting, Simon Keswick, Hongkong Land's chairman, spent out his company's demands for boardroom representation to Sir Nigel Brookes and Sir Eric Parker, Trafalgar's chairman and chief executive.

The terms were later discussed by Trafalgar's board at the company's head office in Mayfair. Trafalgar's institutional shareholders are thought to be keen for the group to accept Hongkong Land's request, since it would give the company the backing of the powerful Jardine

Matheson group, Hongkong Land's parent.

Hongkong Land in turn has threatened to sell the 15 per cent stake it bought two weeks ago or launch a bid if its demands are not met. "If provided the company is adequately represented on the board, its investment will be long-term and it will devote its resources to the future expansion and development of Trafalgar House," said Mr Keswick in a statement.

Earlier Robert Fleming, Hongkong Land's merchant bank, confirmed that Hongkong Land's tender offer for 14.9 per cent of Trafalgar's shares had lapsed. The bank said that it had received tenders for less than 6.97 million shares, 1 per cent of the total. The offer has been declared void.

Clarks rebels' adviser speaks out

By Jon Ashworth

MICHAEL Markham, the businessman advising rebel members of the Clarks shoe family, has attacked the management skills of Walter Dickson, who became chairman of C&J Clark 15 months ago.

Mr Markham, whose own career record is being criticised by Clarks loyalists, said the appointment should never have been made, even though he himself had recommended Mr Dickson. Mr Markham said his judgment had been "clouded" at the time. "Walter is a first-class line manager, but he is not a chairman. He is a great expert on brands, but not a strategic thinker."

A group of rebel shareholders led by Lance Clark is trying

to replace Mr Dickson and Jim Power, a non-executive director, with Mr Markham and Hugh Pym, an ITN journalist and family member. They claim a plan to restore Clarks' fortunes has not been implemented. The proposals will be voted on at an extraordinary meeting in Glastonbury, Somerset, on Friday.

Mr Markham, 40, has been presented to shareholders as "an experienced businessman with an outstanding record in corporate turnarounds". He is currently involved with running a group of leasing companies owned by DG Bank, the central bank for the co-operative banks of Germany. In a weekend circular to

shareholders the Clarks board questioned Mr Markham's suitability. "What is his career history? What are his qualifications? What is the factual basis of his 'outstanding record in corporate turnarounds'?" it asked.

Mr Markham retorted: "This is an issue about making quality shoes at the most competitive price." Mr Markham, who describes himself as a "trouble-shooter", went to school at Stowe - "Richard Branson was a classmate and we speak from time to time" - and joined the army before going into the venture capital industry in 1975 where, he admits, he wasn't a success.

Deal gives boost to Kunick

By Matthew Bond

COUNTY NatWest Ventures, the venture capital group, has invested £12.5 million in Goldborough Holdings, until yesterday the wholly owned nursing home subsidiary of Kunick.

Goldborough will be jointly owned by CNWV and Kunick and will be run by Graham Smith. He steps down as chief executive of Kunick to become executive chairman of Goldborough.

Russell Smith, who stepped down as chairman of Kunick in May to become deputy chairman, returns as chief executive. Kunick will concentrate on its music and amusement machines business.

With Goldborough moving off balance sheet, Kunick's net debt drops from £39.5 million to £10.5 million. Goldborough now has 18 nursing homes, three acute care hospitals, a home care agency business and four close care, sheltered housing developments. In the last financial year, Goldborough made a pre-tax loss of £900,000. It lost a similar amount in the six months to March.

Tay sells record 1,000 homes

By Philip Pangalos

TAY Homes is raising its dividend despite a 26 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £6.1 million in the year to end-June. The payout increase comes after the housebuilding group, based in Leeds, sold more than 1,000 houses for the first time.

Deliberate attempts to target lower-priced housing and urban renewal schemes helped sales grow to £76.2 million (£70.6 million), despite a fall in the average selling price to £64,900 from £74,300.

A record 1,094 houses were sold - a 29 per cent increase on the 849 sold last year. Sales were also helped by substantial investment in part-exchange houses, averaging £5.5 million. Profits from land sales fell to £1.4 million (£2.3 million).

Trevor Spencer, the chairman, said: "We broke the 1,000-house barrier for the first time, an excellent achievement by management in the face of such uniquely difficult conditions."

He added: "September has gone quite well, after an awful August. The ability of the group to generate the profit achieved in these difficult times demonstrates its strength to continue to wea-



Shoring up payout: Trevor Spencer, left, and Norman Stubbs

ther the recession and to recover strongly when trading conditions improve."

The reporting period saw earnings slide to 18.1p a share, after 25.1p a share last time, but there is an increased dividend of 5.85p for the year, compared with 5.3p for the corresponding period last

time, after a final payout of 4.65p a share, up from 4.1p last time. Despite the announcement of a fall in profits at the group, where Norman Stubbs is deputy chairman, the share price remained at 141p.

Tempus, page 26

FOR CREATING NEW JOBS IN COALFIELD AREAS



YOU CAN'T BEAT B.C.E.

British Coal Enterprise offers a wide range of financial and practical support to any business operating in a coalfield area - so long as it is viable and has the potential to create jobs.

In the last seven years, our activities have helped with the creation of more than 75,000 jobs - that's over one job per hour, every hour.

From low cost loans, to training, to premises. From small scale start-ups, to expansion of existing operations, to helping businesses who want to relocate into a coalfield area.

The B.C.E. package is unbeatable - in scale and in scope - send for our information pack and you'll begin to see why.

Just clip the FREEPOST coupon

From low cost loans, to training, or call us Free - now.

FREEPHONE 0800 444 235

Please send me the B.C.E. INFORMATION PACK.

Name: _____

Postcode: _____

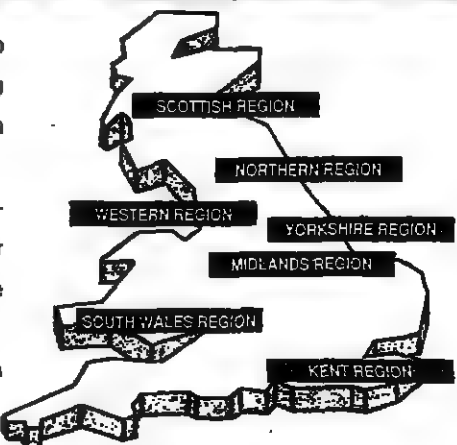
Company: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Send To: British Coal Enterprise Ltd, Freeport, Edwinstowe House, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9ZR.



British COAL

Helping Create jobs

Of double prongs and bootstraps

Few sectors have been hit harder than engineering during the recession and in theory it stands to gain a great deal from the devaluation that took Britain out of the ERM. But there were few signs of glee evident yesterday when the Engineering Employers' Federation delivered its latest half-year survey, even though this showed that recovery is at last under way. On the contrary, EEF's director-general Neil Johnson was behaving as if his members, natural supporters of the government through thick and thin, had finally run out of patience. In chiding the government for its refusal to deliver a so-called industrial strategy, Mr Johnson is touching a raw nerve. Carnage in the industry has been extreme and casualties heavy. But for all his fine words about delivering in six weeks the strategy which the government has failed to produce in six months, Mr Johnson might just as well save his breath. His self-styled two-pronged programme for regenerating Britain's industrial base almost certainly involves costs far beyond what is acceptable at this late stage in an extremely tough public spending round.

The EEF should know well that John Major and Norman Lamont are not ardent believers in a two-pronged approach to solving the nation's difficulties or anything else which can be confused with Labour's interventionist plans for recovery. The EEF should instead think about the bootstrap approach to self-help which involves making the most of the chances created through our exit from ERM and the devaluation which followed.

The EEF admits that even before the devaluation of mid-September its prices relative to German competition were fine, though not so keen against US and Japanese manufacturers. Since then, the picture has brightened substantially. British engineering export prices are now at the most competitive for four years and perhaps as good as at any time since the late 1970s. This is the stuff of which recovery is made.

If the EEF expects more, then it should look back into its archives to the 1967, and other, devaluations to confirm the potency of the stimulus which can arise, other things being equal. The 14 per cent devaluation against the dollar of November 1967 helped to transform the net income of commercial and industrial companies, which had immediately before this been falling at 10 per cent per year. Within a few months, it was growing by 20 per cent a year and the pace eventually became even faster. The parallels with 1992 may not be exact but there is great scope for rebuilding margins and winning new exports.

Vickers blow

Current scoreline in the latest Middle East battle reads Dick Cheney 1, Malcolm Rifkind 0. Vickers minus one billion. Analysts had high hopes that the visit paid by Mr Rifkind to the Middle East a few weeks ago would yield results for British defence contractors. Vickers' loss of a £1 billion order for its Challenger 2 tank so soon afterwards is a double surprise. Mr Cheney, US defence secretary, is said to have been most aggressive in support of General Dynamics, Vickers' American rival for the tank order. But it is impossible to tell how much the tank order was partly a debt of honour in exchange for US support in the Gulf war. For Vickers, the outlook must look daunting. The Kuwait decision to buy US equipment will not help Vickers to win orders from Abu Dhabi, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Vickers shares cannot help but reflect the problems of cash-hungry Rolls-Royce deep in the doldrums, queries over military orders and a cash outflow probably exceeding £125 million in the past couple of years.

Graham Searjeant says that a fresh campaign to deepen ownership of shares must persuade companies to woo the individual investor

WHEN Sir Peter Thompson and Geoffrey Maddrell finally launch the ProShare Association tomorrow, to promote direct investment in shares by individuals, they risk meeting sympathetic establishment apathy.

Nearly all shades of respectable opinion are, at least in theory, in favour of more people owning more shares in more companies. In the run-up to the general election, even the Labour party welcomed the formation of the Share Ownership Movement, the officially-supported umbrella body led by Sir Peter and run by Mr Maddrell. Like money supply targets or the nuclear deterrent, however, ProShare's aims ranked much higher on the Eighties agenda of priorities than today's.

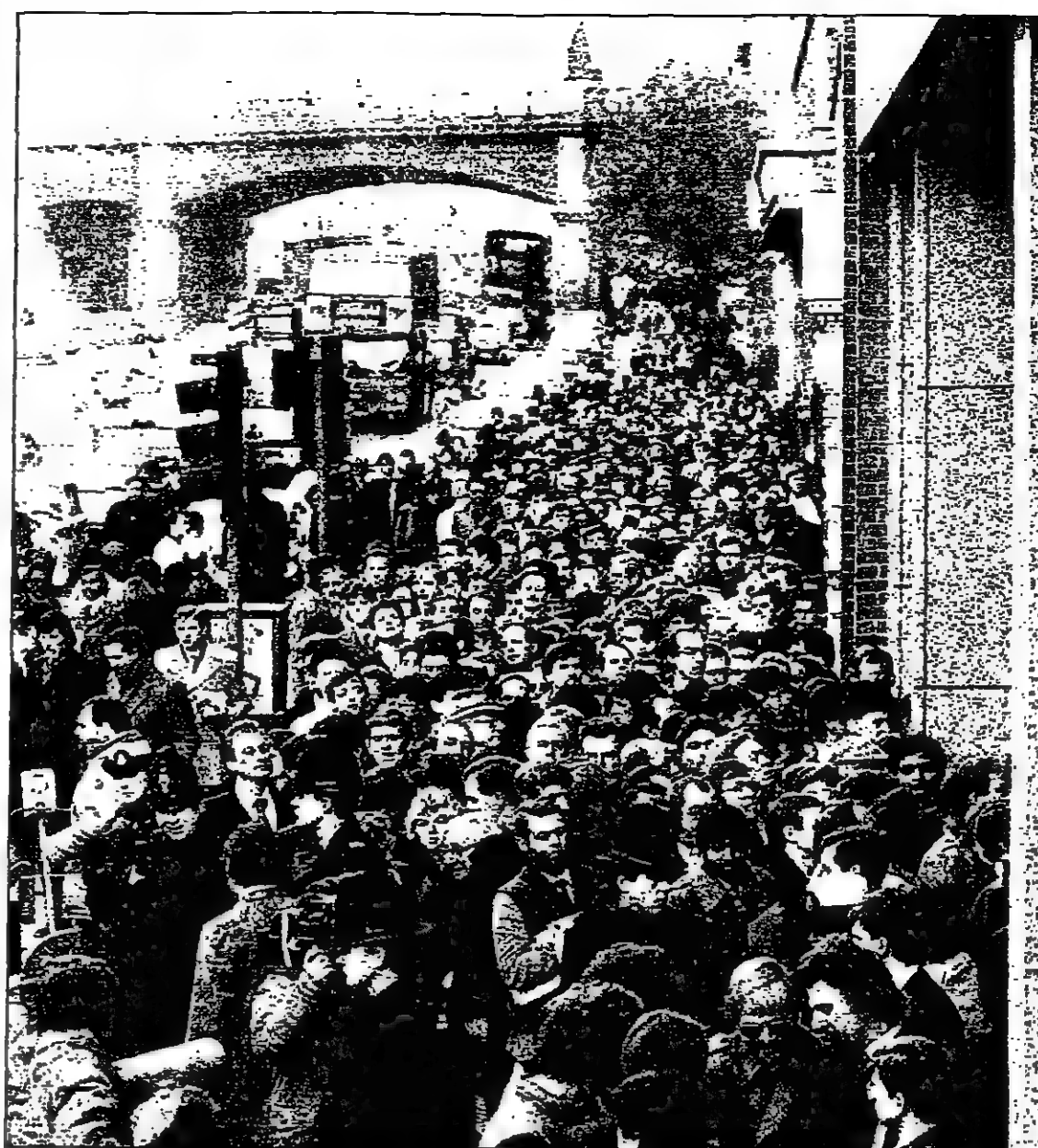
If the drive to deepen share ownership is to be more than a gesture, ProShare will have to convince companies that it is their self-interest to woo the private investor in much larger numbers. As a lobby for investors, it will also, occasionally, have to upset some of its own begetters: The London Stock Exchange, the DTI, 19 quoted companies and the Bradford and Bingley Building Society.

In the early days of the Thatcher government, there was a zealous philosophical drive behind wider share ownership and employee share ownership. Together, they were to bridge the divide between wage and profit, identify millions with the well-being of companies and thereby change the way people thought about private sector wealth creation. When this priority met the practical need to find a market for shares in BT and later utility privatisations, mass share-owning democracy was born.

The ranks of individual shareholders swelled from about three million in 1979 to more than 11 million at the 1991 peak. Many of the affluent young had to cash in such assets to maintain mortgages or repay debt over the past two years, but there are still more than three times as many shareholders as 13 years ago.

Mass share ownership may prove, however, to have been a seed planted on stony ground. Shareholding grew fast but failed to develop. A survey last year found that three quarters of shareholders held only one or two shares, overwhelmingly small packets of privatised companies bought in high-profile government sales. Only one in seven had bought a quoted share through the stock market.

The Treasury's belated attempt to encourage more people to buying and selling "second-hand" shares, by funneling the latest privatisations through share shops, has not borne much fruit. The decline in the importance of private investors in



Rush of the eighties: People queuing in London in 1985 to hand in Laura Ashley share applications

financing industry has continued. In 1987, individuals controlled two thirds of company shares. That fell to 28 per cent by 1991, and kept sliding to 21 per cent in 1989 and only 20 per cent at the last count.

The juggernaut of collective investment schemes seems only to have been slowed temporarily by the privatisation programme. Personal equity plans, designed to build direct relationships between investors and companies, were soon taken over by professionals, usually losing on the way that intended direct contact through annual reports and shareholder meetings. Market forces seem against small shareholders. To save money, firms have even taken to sending them patronising and virtually useless abbreviated accounts.

ProShare aims to reverse the declining role of private investors by growing roots to mass share ownership. It will have to adopt a new approach to do that, since less support may be forthcoming from two of its strongest original allies.

Government priorities have changed. Ministers may still feel it politically convenient to woo the

masses to buy remaining minority stakes in BT, National Power and PowerGen. There are few other state industries suitable for popular public flotations, unless there is a change of policy over the Post Office. Instead, the Treasury will need to sell vast amounts of government debt over the next two or three years.

Serling's removal from the ERM will not encourage potential foreign buyers, leaving a strong incentive to devise long-term investments and tax breaks to milk the private investor, in ways that do not compete head-on with the building societies.

As the government's practical financial needs have changed, so has its philosophy. The enterprise culture and the share-owning democracy have given way to John Major's Citizen's Charter. This change shows most clearly in the treatment of privatised utilities, where shareholders' interests rapidly lost any importance as a constituency for politicians, even though the vast majority of the six million new shareholders hold only utility shares.

Utilities have suffered from regulatory uncertainty, though they have

survived the recession well. Aside from the first-day profits, investors may well have been better off putting their money into unit trusts. If ProShare is to be taken seriously, Mr Maddrell might need to take a stronger line on the treatment of utilities than anything else.

He has already provoked the scarcely-concealed ire of the Stock Exchange for daring to question whether Taurus, the Exchange's awaited electronic stock settlement system, is good for private investors. He says the mechanics that replace share certificates are too complicated; the Exchange says improvements already made or envisaged should overcome that.

This is a critical argument. Unless Taurus enables much cheaper and more user-friendly systems for dealing in small parcels of shares to develop, people who bought privatisation issues will not extend their interest into trading on the market. Investments of £100 a time, which resulted from some privatisations, are unlikely to be economic under any

system. Meanwhile, much of the securities industry has lost interest in the private investor as fast as it has lost interest in trading shares in all but the top few hundred companies. Individuals are still involved in 70 per cent of all stock market equity transactions and private client brokers still do steady trade for the wealthy. When it comes to the more modest investor, overheads get in the way. There are exceptions. The Sharelink no-frills service, has found that its private clients often take a contrary view to the institutional herd. On a larger scale, that could boost market liquidity, especially in smaller stocks, and reduce the suffocating dominance in price-setting of over-cautious marketmakers.

If Taurus works, securities houses, stockbrokers, banks and building societies might again see the modest private investor as a customer worth courting, if not in penny packets then perhaps in the sort of lots implied by the £3,000 single company personal equity plan. If direct equity investment by the millions is to grow strong roots, however, it will probably be in share holding rather than share dealing.

The ProShare Association is intended to be a sort of self-financing club, offering information to private investors and creating a two-way process to legitimise its lobbying activities. However, ProShare will find that a £1 million budget cannot compete with unit trust and insurance companies. Only if it can be used to mobilise the resources of companies will it make much impact.

Many big companies regard their small shareholders as a contemptible nuisance and think themselves lucky not to have the ridiculously big share registers foisted on some smaller privatised groups. Others already realise their potential value. Loyal private shareholders are a boon for any decently-run company suffering temporary trading difficulties or finding itself on the end of a takeover bid, but can play a much greater role.

A fan club of shareholders can be an army of unpaid promoters, marketers and customers. Private shareholders can be a steady source of finance, responding more than institutions to the alternative of dividends.

Many more companies could build their capital steadily by regular distribution of warrants. Companies can do much more than they think to improve their share rating by altering subtly the balance of supply and demand on the Stock Exchange. Schemes to attract a regular inflow of private investors through cheap dealing, single company PEPs and employee savings schemes could, for instance, be tied to a modest programme of buying shares in, to provide a steady flow of buy orders.

Relatively few companies treat private shareholders as part of the company by offering discounts on products, social events and group benefits. Far fewer publicise benefits effectively. Many complain, however, about being at the mercy of a few people in the City.

If companies want private shareholders, they need to take serious steps to attract them. If they do not, the efforts of ProShare will ultimately be a waste of time.

BUSINESS LETTERS

The unacceptable face of speculation

From Mr Phillip Waters

Sir, It is apparent that large sections of our economy, both in the financial and industrial sector, play the money markets to their best advantage. Such activity by these speculators serves no other purpose than their own personal gain.

While I have no objection to any company looking to maximise its profits as best it can in the interest of the shareholders, when such activity has an adverse effect on the rest of the country by virtue of rendering its currency unstable, then is it not time to say this is the unacceptable face of "capitalism".

I suggest a prohibitive tax upon such speculative profits

being imposed by the governments of all the major currencies.

There would obviously have to be some mechanism for distinguishing between the normal trading exchanges in currency and pure speculation, but doubtless the bureaucrats in Brussels who in their infinite wisdom have been capable of devising the common agricultural policy could come up with some acceptable mechanism.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP WATERS,
Ashcroft,
Walford Road,
Ross-on-Wye,
Herefordshire.

Disappointment over pension law paper directed at professionals

From Mr T. G. Campion

Sir, Following the Commons select committee's report on the Maxwell affair, the government has set up a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Roy Goode to review the framework and law relating to occupational pensions schemes.

This committee has now issued a consultative document, which is available on request to those interested, inviting individuals and organisations to submit written evidence, not later than December 15, 1992.

How disappointing on reading this paper to find that it appears to be directed at the professionals who make their living from the pension industry.

The vast majority of members of these schemes will have difficulty in understanding the document, in absorbing the detail and formulating answers to the questions in part 111. These members, who have looked to governments to introduce legislation to safeguard their retirement income, will again wonder if their voice will be heard.

Perhaps this is only to be expected given the make-up of the committee, all professionals with no representatives from the pensioner organisations or trade unions, who are in touch with the needs and expectations of their members.

After being closely involved with these issues, and in High Court action, it would appear that we may again be presented with similar conclusions to those of the Occupational Pensions Board, in its report, *Protecting Pensions 1988*; the professional view, "no case for reform". They were wrong, as the Imperial and Maxwell cases proved.

With the excellent report of

the Field committee, and the setting up of the Law Review committee, members of these schemes, who have contributed from their pay on a compulsory basis, had high hopes that at last their expectations of a secure retirement

income would be assured. Are they again to be disappointed?
Yours faithfully,
T. G. CAMPION,
117 Mansfield Road,
Selston,
Nottinghamshire.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Goldman looks to defend RHM

GOLDMAN Sachs may still be bidding overtly to be part of the RHM defence team against Hanson, but Stanley Metcalfe, RHM chairman, is understood to be under pressure from Morgan Grenfell, his existing merchant bank, to resist any urge to appoint the American firm. Metcalfe admits that he took a call from Goldman last week, on the grounds that it successfully defended ICI against Hanson, but Goldman's aggressive tactics have not, it seems, won admiration at Morgan Grenfell. Goldman employed Investigative Group Inc to uncover material on the Hanson team, and again during its defence of Racal, prompting Williams Holdings, the bidder, to complain of a "dirty tricks" campaign. More specifically, Williams claimed that the bins of its senior executives had been over-turned by IGI. Morgan Grenfell was the adviser to Williams Holdings and sources at the bank admit that it has let Metcalfe know it would not be happy to work on a "dirty" defence alongside Goldman. If Metcalfe does appoint Goldman as a co-adviser, the man certain to head up the Goldman team is John Thornton, managing director of the bank's UK arm and known as "the rotweiler".

Miller's crossing

TIM Miller, the ace marketing man at M&G, the investment group, is looking for another job. "I have been

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES



"The recession is driving people to it"

sacked," said Miller, in his usual direct manner. Miller, the man behind the £246 million "biggest ever" investment trust launch and who also helped the group become the number one provider of personal equity plans, claims that he has good reason to feel aggrieved. His most recent task was, he says, to review the group's marketing strategy and he consequently suggested that life assurance and unit trusts be handled by one person. He then suggested that he would be the ideal candidate for that job. But the board did not agree and Peter Emms — currently at Allied Dunbar — will be joining M&G shortly. Miller, previously managing director at Framlington, is, he says, now looking for "something quite significant". Paddy Linaker, managing director of M&G, confirms Miller's version of events. "It is a very amicable arrangement. Tim has been very good in his area of direct marketing. The

board took the view that the job had changed and that we wanted someone experienced to take charge of sales and marketing." Miller's own review had pointed the group in that direction. Neither would be drawn on the compensation Miller, 51, will receive.

Gender bender

YOU would think that Lars-Ake Helgasson, who today puts in his first City appearance as president of the Swedish company Stora, Europe's largest forest products group, would have no trouble getting across a masculine image for his company. But Tommy Fors, the bearded head of Stora's ancient copper mine at Falun, central Sweden, explains, the company logo, which includes the chemical symbol for copper, is a cause of confusion. For the symbol is the same circle with a cross at the bottom that symbolises the female gender and is much used in feminist circles.

THE Building Societies Association must be feeling very important. Its monthly inflow and outflow figures are now considered so important that the Bank of England has asked the BSA to co-ordinate the release of the numbers with its own provisional monetary statistics. The co-ordination should also avoid any insider trading on the BSA figures. Such an eventuality may sound unlikely, but the BSA says its releases have been leaked early a couple of times causing Bank of England officials much concern.

CAROL LEONARD

VILLA DEI CESARI RESTAURANT

RUFFALE WITH HIS VIOLIN SERENADES YOU AT YOUR TABLE. EXCELLENT CONTINENTAL CUISINE OVERLOOKING THE RIVER TRAMES

WITH ITS BREATHTAKING VIEWS, DANCE FLOOR WITH LIVE BAND "SPECIAL" 6 COURSE DEGUSTAZIONE MENU AT £24.90 PER PERSON

MENU DEGUSTAZIONE
Minimum Two Persons.

- Nest of Scallops with Quail Eggs and Basil Sauce or Gratin of Green Noodles
- Fillets of Dover Sole with Ginger, Lime and Dices of Lobster
- Sorbet of Pink Peppers and Fresh Mint
- Sliced Breast of Duck in a Prune Sauce.
- Lamb Fillets served with Liver Pate and Black Truffle Sauce
- Sweets . Coffee . Petits Fours

FULL SELECTION OF WINES ALSO A LA CARTE MENU, IDEAL AFTER THEATRE ETC. LAST ORDERS 1am OPEN 6 NIGHTS

Seating for 200 Persons. Ideal for daily hire, conference, Fashion Shows, Filming, Weddings etc. For information and Special Rates

Telephone: 071 828 7453
071 834 9872

Fax: 071 834 0191

135 Grosvenor Road, London SW1

Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movement on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won enough or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Abbey National	Banking	1.00
2	Marshall	Breweries	1.00
3	Walker Green	Industrial	1.00
4	Rowe	Electrical	1.00
5	Continental	Chemicals	1.00
6	Island Foods	Food	1.00
7	Drummond	Drugs	1.00
8	Waters	Electrical	1.00
9	Lloyds	Insurance	1.00
10	Glaxo	Pharmaceuticals	1.00
11	British Gas	Utilities	1.00
12	British Telecom	Telecommunications	1.00
13	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
14	British Petroleum	Oil	1.00
15	British Steel	Steel	1.00
16	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
17	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
18	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
19	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
20	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
21	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
22	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
23	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
24	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
25	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
26	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
27	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
28	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
29	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
30	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
31	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
32	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
33	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
34	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
35	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
36	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
37	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
38	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
39	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00
40	British Airways	Air Transport	1.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES

If you have ticked off your eight share prices in the game table, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 55272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details).

Four winners equally share the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000. Mrs A. Barclay, Huddersfield; Ms H. McArthur, Huddersfield; Mr J. Chapman, Fareham; and Mr K. Wilson, Lewes, E. Sussex.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
1	Abbey National	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Marshall	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Walker Green	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Rowe	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Continental	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Island Foods	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Drummond	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Waters	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Lloyds	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Glaxo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
11	British Gas	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	British Telecom	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14	British Petroleum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	British Steel	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
17	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
18	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
19	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
21	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
22	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
23	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
25	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
27	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
28	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
29	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
31	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
32	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
33	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
34	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
35	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
36	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
37	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
38	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
39	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
40	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
1	Abbey National	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Marshall	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Walker Green	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Rowe	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Continental	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Island Foods	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Drummond	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Waters	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Lloyds	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Glaxo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
11	British Gas	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	British Telecom	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14	British Petroleum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	British Steel	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
17	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
18	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
19	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
21	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
22	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
23	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
25	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
27	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
28	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
29	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
31	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
32	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
33	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
34	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
35	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
36	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
37	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
38	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
39	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
40	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
1	Abbey National	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Marshall	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Walker Green	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Rowe	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Continental	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Island Foods	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Drummond	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Waters	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Lloyds	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Glaxo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
11	British Gas	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	British Telecom	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14	British Petroleum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	British Steel	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
17	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
18	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
19	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
21	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
22	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
23	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
25	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
27	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
28	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
29	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
31	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
32	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
33	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
34	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
35	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
36	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
37	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
38	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
39	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
40	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

ELECTRICALS

No.	Company	Price	%	Yield	P/E
1	Abbey National	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2	Marshall	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3	Walker Green	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4	Rowe	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
5	Continental	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
6	Island Foods	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Drummond	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
8	Waters	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
9	Lloyds	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
10	Glaxo	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
11	British Gas	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12	British Telecom	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
13	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
14	British Petroleum	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
15	British Steel	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
16	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
17	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
18	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
19	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
20	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
21	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
22	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
23	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
24	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
25	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
26	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
27	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
28	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
29	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
30	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
31	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
32	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
33	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
34	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
35	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
36	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
37	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
38	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
39	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
40	British Airways	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Firm at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 5. Dealings end October 16. Settlement day October 20. Forward and options are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1992 High Low Company Price % Net Yld P/E

1



THEATRE page 30

Women, sexuality and
Lorca: Dinah Stabb
excels at the Gate as
the bitter Bernarda Alba

ARTS

MUSICAL page 31

With Tony Slattery on
board, a new West End
show revels in nostalgia
for wartime radio frolics



Sir Georg Solti, 80 next week, has not lost his passion for conducting or controversy, as Richard Morrison discovers

Veteran with new scores to settle

Between us, on a table, is a massive tome: the score of Bruckner's Third Symphony. A poet would find that symbolic. Sir Georg Solti, 80 next week, performed this epic work for the first time just two weeks ago. After more than 50 years in the business, he still has a raging thirst to conduct.

At present he is back at Covent Garden rehearsing Verdi's *Otello*. Then there are birthday concerts galore on two continents, and *Rigoletto* at La Scala. Next year, he does a centenary production of Verdi's autumnal masterpiece *Pastorale*. "I am deeply in love with it, probably because of my own age."

After that, more recordings... the plans stretch towards 2000. "So much wonderful music written, and I will die not knowing half of it," he says. But there is not a whiff of resignation in that famous corkscrew of an accent. Rather, the tone suggests a colossal will to go on and on. "I am a very curious musician, I continually broaden my horizons, and never believed the old-fashioned idea, *la Furtwängler*, that you keep on doing the same 30 pieces. Nor do I want to make performances like photocopies. Of course, the price is high; I work harder than any other conductor, because I am not faking and I know my scores."

Solti's physical burliness seems undiminished. Had he chosen to be a middleweight boxer he would surely have bloodied many a nose. Nor has age blunted his wit, a quality sometimes forgotten in all the tales of Georg the Terrible. In fact, he hardly gives the impression of having reached middle-age yet, and that illusion is sustained by his family. His younger daughter started at Oxford only last week.

Yet this is a man who studied with Bartók and played glöckenspiel for Toscanini. "Please," he demurs, "let us not talk about my life from age five. We will talk about today and tomorrow." Here, then, is a question for today. As the conductor who presided over Covent Garden's golden era in the Sixties, is he not disappointed to return to the Royal Opera in its present parlous state?

"The government must make up its mind," he commands. "Does it want an opera house or not? Better to close the place than the half-starvation we have now. Only when the government gives adequate money can it accuse the opera house of not getting results. And I



am very saddened by the high prices. £100 for a good seat? Young people cannot come to the house. "I know the economic difficulties we face in England. But why does the first saving always come in the arts? It is a pity that David Mellor left government, whatever careless nonsense he did. He understands the arts' needs."

Solti warns to a favourite theme: the undervaluing of musicians. If you pay them badly, he says, they have to moonlight, and their playing suffers. "You may tell me that they will do this anyway. Musicians are generally greedy, we accept that. But if they are well paid the conductor has the right to say: 'Take home the part and practise.'"

'Better to close the Royal Opera House than the half-starvation we have now'

Lack of cash for the arts is a specifically British problem, but Solti detects a more general operational malaise. "It is essential that opera begins and ends with musical considerations. The function of the music director is crucial in any successful opera house." Tactfully, he makes no mention of Covent Garden here. "Perhaps producers are so dominant in opera now, because there are so few good conductors interested in doing it. For example, Göttinger hasn't done opera for years. Really it has been only Abbado, Muti and me."

Solti believes that young conductors today are too vain to serve the apprenticeship he had: as an opera-house repetiteur. "You learn all the repertoire line by line with the singers, and you do all the dirty work. Nowadays, young conductors cannot be bothered. Of course, it is a slow advancement: you need six years. It's like being a medicine student. You don't start operating on people immediately; you learn anatomy first. In opera, learning anatomy means learning how singers breathe. Conductors who were

never repetiteurs don't breathe; they just play."

Knowing how singers breathe has not stopped Solti from having memorable spats with some of them. He wants instrumental perfection from voices, and a few singers have chafed under his demands. In Covent Garden days he famously crossed swords with the tenor Jon Vickers. More recently, he castigated Jessye Norman in the American press after she had withdrawn late from a premiere.

No institution lies closer to his heart than the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, though he retired from being its music director last year after 22 years. "We achieved so much. I shouldn't say 'we' any more, yet I feel still committed to Chicago. Don't forget they are my boys and girls: there are 66 players in that orchestra who I engaged."

And how did he mould his "boys and girls" into an ensemble that dazzled the world? Is it necessary, for example, for a great orchestra to be ruthless and dictatorial? Solti laughs hugely. "Look, a conductor and orchestra is not a democracy. Imagine if I said to the violins: 'what do you think? how should we play this?'"

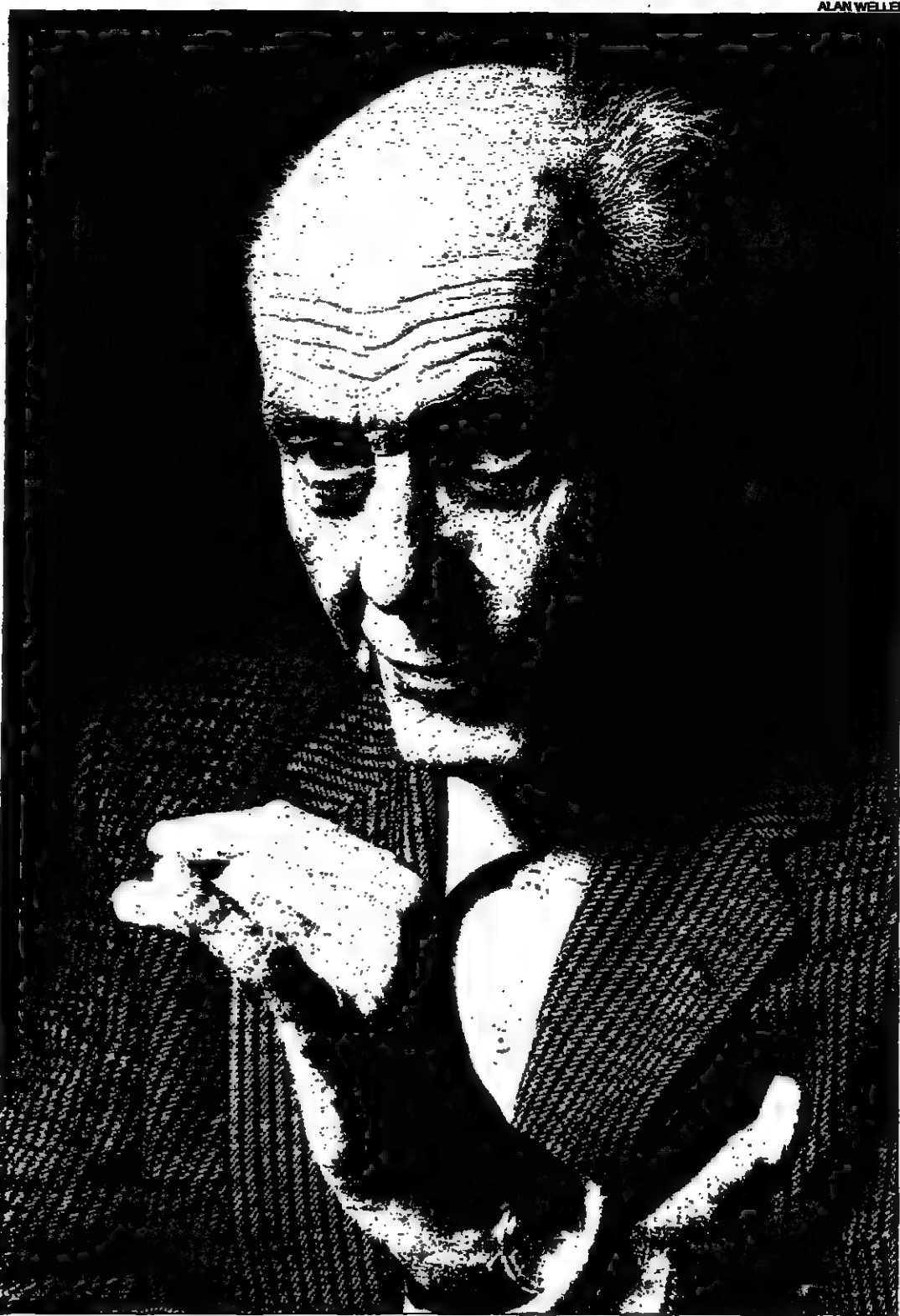
Well, some conductors do. "I know, and look what the result is. A disaster! It doesn't matter if you are the son of the Tsar, if you come to an orchestra not knowing exactly what you want their respect will vanish in five minutes."

Then there is the matter of a clear beat. "The most important thing I say to students is: clarity is the essence. The beat is your bible." Yet Solti has often been criticised by players on exactly this point.

"Yes, I wasn't so clear once. Players complained all the time. They still complain, but more politely. They don't say 'we can't understand you'. Instead they say 'we don't quite see what you want'. So I reply 'this is either your fault or mine, and we do it again with me beating as clearly as I can. If it still doesn't work, I say 'Okay, it's your fault.'"

Solti is one of the most recorded conductors in history. In 45 years with Decca he has made hundreds of discs — and listens to none of them. "That is the only way, otherwise you get depressed. My interpretations are so different now, even from 15 years ago."

His luck was to come to maturity exactly as the recording age did. "I was 13 when we heard, for the first time, music on radio. It was



Sir Georg Solti: "So much wonderful music written, and I will die not knowing half of it", he says

terrible." Solti gives an impression of static coming out of a wireless. "Yet people said 'that is the end of live music'. It wasn't. Then along came the LP. They said: 'Hat that will finish off concerts'. Quite the opposite. The people listening at home became curious. They wanted to hear it in real life."

Earlier this year he tried to withdraw from conducting the Covent Garden *Otello*. "I said: why do you make me work on my

80th birthday?" The Royal Opera persuaded him that the British public would be much disappointed if he pulled out. That is true. Solti belongs to a greatly revered émigré generation: musicians who, forced out of their homelands, have enriched British life immeasurably.

His decision to take British citizenship in 1972 was "a natural thing", he says. "Actually, I was infuriated, when we came through Heathrow, that my wife went

quickly through the channel for British citizens while I stood in a big queue for foreigners. So I went to a friend, Robert Armstrong, who said he would look into it." Not surprisingly, with the head of the Civil Service looking into it, Solti's British passport arrived in record time. "Of course, the first time I came back through Heathrow with a British passport, there was a huge queue for the British channel and the foreign one was empty."

Notes on eight decades

October 21, 1912: Solti is born in Budapest. A child prodigy, giving piano recitals at 12. Solti then studied under Kodály and Bartók.

1930: Repetiteur in Budapest.

1935: Assisted Bruno Walter at Salzburg Festival, then worked for two years as Toscanini's assistant; possibly his most formative experience.

1938: Debut as conductor, *Figaro* in Budapest. But as a Jew his future in Hungary is bleak.

August 1939: Flees to Switzerland just before border closes. Supports himself during war with piano teaching and playing.

1945: With Nazi conductors ruled out, the American army makes Solti music director of Bavarian State Opera in Munich. In 1952 he moves to same job in Frankfurt.

1947: Recording of Beethoven and Brahms chamber music begins his 45-year association with British record company, Decca. His first contract was for £30. Hundreds of recordings followed.

1956: A *Magic Flute* at Salzburg is generally thought to have launched his international career. In the 1950s he conducted all major US and European orchestras.

1959: With *Der Rosenkavalier* he makes a mesmeric Covent Garden debut. Two years later, he becomes music director of Royal Opera House. He stays for ten years.

1965: Solti completes his Decca recording of *The Ring*; the first integral *Ring* set ever issued.

1967: Marries Valerie Pitts, an English television presenter sent to interview him. His first marriage had broken up several years earlier.

1969: Appointed conductor of Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Says he will give it ten years. Stays for 22.

1971: Knighted, and becomes a British citizen.

1972: Appointed musical director of the Orchestre de Paris; retains the post until 1975.

1979: Principal conductor of London Philharmonic, until 1983.

1979: Returns to Budapest for the first time in 40 years, and later establishes links and educational opportunities for young Hungarian musicians.

Box office may be good, but it's better by bus

BRITAIN languishes in recession, but are they downhearted in the theatre? Not a bit, apparently. According to Susan Whiddington, the development officer of the Society of West End Theatre (Swet), business is booming in the West End.

Box office attendances for the first eight months of this year were up four per cent over the same period in 1991, she says — and the scare stories of a few months ago were clearly nothing more than the overwrought reaction to a traditional summer lull.

"We are not doing terrible business in the West End. There are lots of shows that are doing terribly well. That doesn't mean every show is doing brilliantly... yes, certain shows haven't fared well this year. But that happens every year."

Nevertheless, the theatre producers are today launching a new initiative aimed at broadening their market. But instead of directing their efforts at the individual ticket buyer, they are aiming this initiative at the group market — or "coach trade" as it is sometimes dismissively known. Swet is hosting Stage Fair — a day-long event at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, opened by the actress Patricia Hodge — specifically for the travel trade and group organisers. The idea is to show the tourism professionals what the West End has to offer through special presentations, seminars, backstage tours and theatre visits.

Whiddington maintains that the society is trying to woo "the coach parties, the women's institutes, groups of ten people or more". Group bookings already account for about ten per cent of the West End theatre audience.

Whether or not Stage Fair does the business, West End theatre managements have already perked up this autumn, as they see the pound plunging. Each notch that sterling moves downward in the foreign exchange markets means that the Germans, the Japs and the



Yankees have a little more cash to spend on best stalls seats during their London visits.

THE European Community may not yet be ready to throw open the doors to eastern Europe's new republics, but the European Film Awards are doing their part. Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Croatia have all submitted entries for the annual competition organised by the European Film Academy. The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia was also represented, until Greece, which disputes the republic's right to the name, threatened to withdraw its own entries in protest. Macedonia's film, *Tatoo*, remains in competition, but will now fly without any national flag.

Britain is fielding Terence Davies's *The Long Day Closes*, Mark Peploe's *Affraid of the Dark* and, in the documentary category, Paul Pawlikowski's *Dostoevsky's Travels*. The prize ceremony takes place in Berlin on December 12.

Technical knockout

WHAT is the finest new museum in Europe? The answer lies in Mannheim, according to the Council of Europe, which has just proclaimed the dauntingly named "State Museum of Technology and Work" in that fair German city as European Museum of the Year. The judges were specially impressed, it seems, by the way this museum "places the technical and economic importance of Baden-Württemberg firmly in its social context, without attempting to gloss over the points at which technology has failed humanity". Mannheim beat 46 other new museums to the trophy, designed by Henry Moore.



Prized? Ayse Owens, Leigh McCormack in *The Long Day Closes*

Among the five specially commended was a British entrant: *Inveraray Jail*, which was said to display "strong dramatic sense and outstanding historical integrity".

WHO would have thought it could have lasted this long? The International Mime Festival will mark its 15th anniversary in January and February with more than 100 performances at seven venues around London, as well as on tour to Oxford, Nottingham, Bury St Edmunds and Oundle. Artists from the United States, Italy, France, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia and Britain will take part in the two-week festival of visual theatre. The anniversary itself will be celebrated by leading personalities from the worlds of theatre, music, dance and comedy who will gather to pay tribute to some favourite mime clichés in *15 Years in the Glass Box* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on January 24.

Deep in the Wells

SADLER'S WELLS, which has been struggling to overcome a £500,000 accumulated deficit, has decided to hire an independent consultancy to review all aspects of the theatre's operation. The review, to be carried out by the arts managers Bomar Keenlyside, follows previous assessments of

Sadler's Wells by the Arts Council and the London Arts Board.

"This is the first time we have actually planned and paid for an assessment ourselves," says Stephen Remington, director of Sadler's Wells. "The previous assessments raised some interesting points — about both our strengths and our weaknesses — which we have to explore in a great deal more depth."

With this review we are looking to achieve a firm financial and business footing for the delivery of our artistic and social policies for the future," adds Remington, who refuses to disclose how much the new review is costing.

Last chance...

LEMONHEADS, the much-praised trio from Boston led by gangling guitarist Evan Dando, peddle a curious form of melodic grunge-rock. Their latest album, *It's a Shame About Ray*, boasts many good tunes, but the finer points tend to get torpedoed by the thrashy tone and explosive throes of the group's live performance. Fast and furious, if a trifle disorganised, Lemonheads wrap up their UK tour with dates at Warehouse, Leeds (0532 468287), tonight, Waterfront, Norwich (0603 766266), tomorrow, and Astoria, London WC2 (071-434 0403), Thursday.

Europe invades - the second wave



After a sparkling summer programme, the second half of the European Arts Festival begins this month and runs up to the end of the year.

From Aberystwyth to Aberdeen, from Portadown to Portsmouth there will be hundreds of events across the country, including special festival productions of opera, theatre and dance, as well as exhibitions and literary events.

The free updated guide is now available through local libraries and arts and information centres. Look out for the Festival near you — and discover the first language of Europe.



EUROPEAN ARTS
FESTIVAL
JULY-DECEMBER 1992

Tuning in to the nation's heartbeat

In the second world war, radio kept Britain's spirits high. David Robinson recalls the entertainers who have inspired a musical opening this week

Those oddballs from whom the new West End show *Radio Times* draws its dramatic personae were the reluctant heroes of the second world war. They were the faceless but familiar friends of radio variety who became vital to our national morale in the first war that British radio was on hand to fight.

The ventriloquists, the comedians, the close harmony singers, the Forces' favourite, they have all been brought together in the new musical devised by Alex Arncliffe from an original script by Robin Miller. Using some of Noel Gay's best-known songs — "Run, Rabbit, Run", and "There's Something About A Soldier" among them — the production, starring Tony Slattery, is set in a (fictional) underground BBC radio studio in 1940 London.

Before the war the variety department had been the bastard son of the BBC. The men in music and drama, talks and documentary came from the universities, the arts establishment, the West End theatre. The disreputable red-nose mob had drifted in from concert-party, vaudeville and comic papers.

And, as *Radio Times* portrays, they were constantly under the censor's chill gaze. Official reports regularly attacked the vulgarity of variety, and phrases as indecent as "winter draws on" were banned; shows were purged of smut and unfattering remarks about the royal family.

Two days before war was declared, the BBC variety department — consisting of two bands, 22 artists and several animals — was evacuated to the supposed safety of Bristol. Three parish halls were hastily converted into studios. In the first month the original gaudy 22 put on 118 shows. But Bristol turned out to be an unlucky choice. The city was blitzed, leaving broadcasters to work by the light of hurricane lamps and from halls with all the windows blown out. In April 1941, the variety department — now expanded to 432 persons, 17 dogs and one parrot — moved on to the greater safety of Bangor, where it remained till 1943. By this time the BBC was originating 85 variety shows every week (the

THEATRE

number included broadcasts of light music). They took their war effort seriously. Shows with titles such as *Ack-Ack*, *Bear-Beer*, *Shipmates Ashore*, *Ship's Company* and *Women at War* were specifically designed for service listeners. Request programmes linked the fighting forces and their families back home.

War-time censorship extended to the choice of music. Initially, crooning and "stuffy" numbers were banned. String martial music was considered to suit the times best. This theory was overturned, however, by the overwhelming popularity of "The Forces' Favourite", Vera Lynn, with her singular line in melancholy sentiment, exemplified by "We'll Meet Again".

Radio variety promoted a sense of national unity: all Britain joined in the same songs and laughed at the same gags at the same time. The week was marked off by daily high spots of fun, beginning with *Monday Night at Eight*. On Tuesday there was *ITMA*; on Wednesday *The Kentucky Minstrels* and on Thursday *Songs from the Shows* and *Henry Hall's Guest Night*. Friday was the only poor night for variety, presumably you went out and queued at the fish and chip shops which, with their meagre wartime allocations, only opened, if at all, on Friday and Saturday.

Saturday night was the big night, with *Garrison Theatre*, *Band Waggon* and *Music Hall*, an old-fashioned vaudeville-style programme, which could call on the biggest stars in Britain. In those Reithian days, no variety shows were broadcast live on the Sabbath. But repeats were allowed; so Sunday — when families had most chance of being together — offered a marvellous reprise of the week's big shows.

Two comedy shows finally dominated wartime radio. Coincidentally their respective presiding geniuses, Arthur Askey and Tommy Handley,



Forces favourites? Amy (Harriet Benson, left) and Olive (Kathryn Evans) are singers in *Radio Times*

had gone to the same Liverpool school, and shared the same infectious cheerful, chirpy delivery.

Band Waggon was Britain's first radio situation comedy show, with eccentric characters inhabiting their own crazy world. It had the additional attraction that it subverted the BBC's dignified image. Listeners followed the absurd adventures of Big Hearted Arthur and his friend Stinker (Richard Murdoch). They were represented as living in a flat at the top of Broadcasting House with Wallace the goat and a washing line on which they hung their "smalls" for all West One to see.

ITMA was a conscious attempt to duplicate the formula and success of *Band Waggon*. Unlike Askey, a newcomer to radio, Tommy Handley had been a regular broadcaster since the beginning in 1923. *ITMA* (an acronym of the original title, *It's That Man Again*) was thought up by Handley, the writer Ted Kavanagh and the producer Francis Worsley, in the Langham Hotel in June 1939. Their original idea was to combine the "personalisation" of *Band Waggon* with the American fast patter of the *Burns and Allen Show*. The first

ITMA went out in July 1939, but not until its fourth series in 1942 did it soar to its unparalleled popularity.

Handley was generally His Wash-out the Mayor of Foaming at the Mouth; though sometimes he might be elevated to such high office as His Fatuity the Minister of Social Hilarity. He was surrounded by grotesques, each of whom would rattle into his office with a catch-phrase which would guarantee an explosion of laughter and applause from the studio audience. There was Mrs Mopp the charlatry, with her lewdly courteous request, "Can I do you now, sir? Ah-Oop the oriental pedlar ("I go — I come back"); Funt, the Nazi spy; the English-shaming Signor So-and-So; the hughubious Diver and bibulous Colonel Chinstrap ("I don't mind if I do").

Another programme rather surprisingly under the odd aegis of the variety department was close running to these two shows in popularity. *The Brains Trust* was what the BBC at that time called "an argument programme". It was a triumph of casting. The debate and bicker of the three original participants — sombre scientist Julian Huxley; squeaky phil-

osopher Dr C.E.M. Joad; and bluff old seadog Commander Campbell — enthralled the public in a way that is hard to imagine today. Even the Queen sent a question to *The Brains Trust*. She wanted to know why Italians were called "Wops".

Characters and catch-phrases were variety's great contribution to the war. Mrs Mopp, Signor So-and-So, Professor Joad were everybody's friends; they provided the jollity of communal listening. The catchphrases provided the nation with a common currency of jest which made every man his own comedian; everyone accepted a drink with "I don't mind if I do".

The variety mob knew they had done a good job. As the proud press officer in Bangor wrote when it was over, "Variety was called upon to provide that light relief to help make tolerable the war's restrictions on normal life. It had somehow to jazz the black-out blues. It found a humorist in Hitler... It knocked some good sound nonsense into the thick head of Mars."

Radio Times is in preview and opens at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041) on Thursday

ROCK

Dead and alive

Shamen
Brixton Academy

YEARS of nocturnal living have altered The Shamen's circadian rhythms. These days, their shows often kick off at around the time the rest of the British Isles is contemplating getting up. This is not a problem for their audience of night-dwelling ravers, but it is hellish for reviewers, who must decide whether to sleep before or after the gig.

This concert-rave was the group's first live date since they reached No 1 in September with the single "Ebenzeer Goode". They may currently be fixtures at Television Centre, but their concerts still have a tribal, underground feel. The Shamen's quasi-mystical manifesto claims that their shows reproduce the hallucinogenic experience. To this end, they deploy a barrage of effects utilising the latest in audio and lighting technology. Was it "hallucinogenic"? After 15 minutes of the relentless sensory bombardment, you certainly wanted a drink.

The group — programmer Colin Angus and rapper Mr C plus hired guitarist and percussionist — took the stage with surprisingly little fanfare. The techno soundtrack ceased; the musicians glided on and, without ado, slid into what sounded like a continuation of the record that had

preceded it. Sci-fi images filled a screen behind them and lasers played havoc with the retinas. The performers did little to emphasise their presence for long periods it was easy to forget that this was live music.

That, apparently, was deliberate. To encourage a proper sense of abandon, the group reduced its role to that of machine operators. Behind his computers, Angus was a detached, boffiny figure. Upfront, the Perma-dancing Mr C sped through his lines with the air of a man forced into it for appearance's sake. The Cockney interjections on "Ebenzeer Goode" were suffused with the weariness of a time-share salesman at the end of a long day.

The velocity of the music carried things along, yet you longed for a feeling of engagement with the group. That only occurred once, when guest vocalist Jhelisa arrived to sing the recent hit "Love, Sex, Intelligence". Her soulful presence temporarily animated the atmosphere.

CAROLINE SULLIVAN

TELEVISION REVIEW

Pretty poor show

THE problem with *The Price of Miracles*, first in a series called *The "Other" Americas* (last night, was that it seemed unwilling to support its sweeping assertions with meaningful facts. I only hope that the rest of this six-part survey of contemporary Latin America proves more substantial.

A confused, confusing portrait of Mexico, it was directed and produced by Marc de Beaufort. James Bellini's narration threw up one begged question after another, over manipulative images.

On a rubbish dump a band played music honouring the Virgin of Guadalupe, "traditional symbol of hope for millions of Mexicans living on the margins of society". Then: "Despite countless presidential initiatives, the gap between the rich and the poor is one of the widest in the world."

Cue shot of a Cartier shop. "The country is a victim of centuries of exploitation by the so-called civilised world," the narrator continued, and the scene shifted to a village and we met Maria Luz Ojeda formerly patrolling a dried-up field. Since her parents died, she said, harvests had failed and now the land itself was dying, the days of plentiful maize and beans were gone. People had drifted to the cities in search of a better life. Maria Luz's four daughters had all gone, and we met

"Other" Americas
Channel 4

Marcela (in Mexico City since 1972). Husband Atanacio had worked tirelessly to buy them a plot of land and raise and educate five healthy children, only to be murdered by jealous neighbours.

Now Marcela dreamt of bringing her family back home, but her eldest son, the breadwinner, favoured emigrating to the United States and sending money back to her. Their story was heart-breaking and illustrative of the poverty trap endlessly repeated under the Latin American sun.

If the film had concentrated on this family and not tried to cover the history of Mexico's failed land reforms, mini-boom in the Seventies, the collapse of Mexico City's infrastructure, protectionism, the newly-signed free-trade agreement with the US and Canada, the boom in assembly work in Tijuana and the untroubled existence of the rich, then it would have had an impact. But as the dispiriting images of poverty alternated with visions of excess, outrage was dulled rather than intensified. The poor of Mexico deserve better.

TONY PATRICK

DANCE UMBRELLA: Debra Craine meets Val Bourne, organiser of the festival

Spokesperson for an umbrella

Britain's biggest dance festival is now so successful it competes against itself

Val Bourne will never forget the night Dance Umbrella was born — the famously reserved British audience stood up and voiced its outrage at the stage. The year was 1978, the performer was the eccentric American choreographer Douglas Dunn, and his solo, *Gestures in Red*, was unlike anything London dancegoers had ever seen before.

"They didn't know what had hit them. People were either delighted or they were totally shocked," remembers Bourne. "We had a screaming match in the theatre while he was trying to perform. Some-one just stood up and shouted 'This is an insult to my intelligence. How dare you put this work on?' whereupon somebody else stood up and said 'That's the best thing I've ever seen, so shut up'."

"This exchange was going on while poor old Douglas was crawling around the stage on his back, and having been told not to expect any sort of a

response from a British audience he had a terrible shock."

Fifteen years of festivals later, audiences have seen it all, thanks to Dance Umbrella and Val Bourne, its founder and sole artistic director. So if Douglas Dunn should return to these shores today, his brand of quixotic post-modernism probably wouldn't cause a single raised eyebrow. "Nowadays it's a much more educated audience," says Bourne. "They've seen a lot of things and that makes them more open, but it also makes them more demanding. They want the best and they now have points of comparison. It's much more interesting to programme for that kind of an audience."

Should she wish to do so, Bourne could now sit back and count Umbrella's successes. Total audiences have grown from 4,000 in 1978 to 20,000 last year; the festival has expanded into Leicester and Newcastle; it regularly tours Umbrella companies regionally; it ranks as one of the world's biggest festivals of contemporary dance. And this year its achievements were recognised with the Prudential Award for Dance. Bourne herself has also been recognised: winner of the 1989 Digital Premier Award; honoured with an OBE in the 1991 Birthday Honours List.

This year's Dance Umbrella, which runs until November 11, is one of the biggest ever. It will offer 22 companies in 50 performances at seven venues in London over four weeks, starting with the Siobhan Davies Dance Company at Riverside Studios tomorrow night. Subsequent weeks will bring Merce Cunningham, Urban Bush Women and Stephen Petronio from America, along with a "Transatlantic Tap" programme, the first time the festival has embraced tap dance. From Europe will come Jean-Claude Gallotta and Compagnie Bagouet from France, and companies from Belgium, Spain and Italy.

The American connection is important, as it has been ever since Umbrella began in 1978, when it seemed all the

new ideas in modern dance came from across the Atlantic. But this year America's pride of place is shared with Europe, a fitting metaphor for the general schizophrenia in British contemporary dance.

"In the very early days of Umbrella we looked across the Atlantic all the time because all the influences were American; there was not a great deal happening in Europe. I think the pendulum has swung, or is swinging, backwards and forwards now so there is equally interesting work in Europe as there is in America. And I think you will see the pendulum go further; you might be looking at Japan or Australia. It's no longer a single focus."

Still, Bourne had planned a high-profile artistic centrepiece as the linchpin for one last transatlantic tie-up: an Anglo-American commission that was to have involved Britain's Michael Clark and America's Stephen Petronio. "Only they found they couldn't work together, or rather their companies couldn't work together. It was sort of a minor disaster for us. "We were going to do it here and Dance Umbrella in Boston was going to do it there. We had raised money from Digital to put it on, money had been raised in America. That all fell apart. But these things happen. It doesn't mean I've lost faith in Michael or in Stephen; it was perhaps too good to be true to combine the two of them."

Then, just as Bourne was grappling with the problem of a lost linchpin, along came the European Arts Festival to the rescue with chequebook in hand. "So we sort of swung round toward Europe and there was absolutely no problem at all in putting together a programme. I think we did it in a week."

"It's a bigger festival this year than we've had before, and its denser. There is even at least one week where in theory we could be competing against ourselves."

"But still I'm quite scared, in a way, because of the recession. I'm just hoping the

strong programme will sustain the festival."

Dance Umbrella opens tomorrow with Siobhan Davies Dance Company at Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (081-748 3354), 7.45pm

Join The Times Theatre Club

THE TIMES
THEATRE
CLUB

LAST week we launched The Theatre Club with the country's biggest ever theatre ticket offer giving two tickets for the price of one at more than 200 shows in over 100 theatres nationwide.

That offer was open to all readers of The Times but in future the special offers will normally be available only to members of The Theatre Club. Future Club events include receptions to meet the cast, authors and directors of productions, backstage visits to see how productions are mounted, visits to some of the country's most historic and modern theatres and also workshops and discussions

with distinguished members of the theatrical profession. The Theatre Club is organised in association with the Society of West End Theatre and the Theatrical Management Association which means that the club has the full backing and support of leading theatres across the



country, from the largest West End theatre to the tiny Mull Little Theatre. Events will be organised at theatres all over the country giving you the opportunity to discover the rich variety of theatre available. When you join The Theatre Club you will receive a personalised membership card and a guide book giving details of all the participating theatres, so wherever you find yourself

you'll know what's available at a nearby theatre.

HOW TO APPLY
Becoming a member of The Theatre Club could not be simpler. There are two ways of joining.

1. Collect ten of the tokens appearing in The Times, the first six tokens appeared last week, a further four will appear this week, or eight tokens from The Times and two from The Sunday Times. If you choose this option, Theatre Club membership will be free.
2. Return the application form below. If you choose this option, please enclose a cheque made payable to The Theatre Club for £12.50. Whichever way you choose to join, send your completed application to: The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH. For more details about The Theatre Club phone 071 413 1412.

Application form. Please enrol me in The Theatre Club.
I enclose (please tick appropriate box): ☐ Ten Times tokens
☐ Eight Times tokens and two Sunday Times tokens

☐ One token plus cheque for £12.50. Cheque number _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

Post to: TTC, The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH.



Val Bourne on balancing Dance Umbrella: "now there is equally interesting work in Europe and America"

NEW SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 22

SWAN LAKE

OCTOBER 22, 26, 28
NOVEMBER 6, 14, 17, 24
DECEMBER 1, 9, 15, 19 AT 7.30PM

BOOK NOW - TICKETS AVAILABLE

THE ROYAL BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE
Covent Garden

BOX OFFICE: 071 240 1066 / 1911

Can ITN combine quality with profitability? A report next from Melinda Wittstock

After the break, trouble

Independent Television News (ITN) has always emerged victorious from the world's battlefields, its correspondents decorated year after year with television journalism's highest awards. But now, after 37 years in the front lines, ITN, the target of a barrage of sniper fire from the boardrooms of ITV, is fighting for its commercial life.

Protracted negotiations over the news company's contract to supply *News at Ten* and other bulletins to ITV from next January have reached a virtual impasse. A war of words over ITN's efforts to impose a £10 million budget squeeze has devastated the already faltering morale of ITN's shrinking troops.

Two weeks ago Andrew Quinn, the new chief executive of ITV, described the news company's shares as being "of nil value" and called into question ITN's chances of survival as the stand-alone, profit-making company required by the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

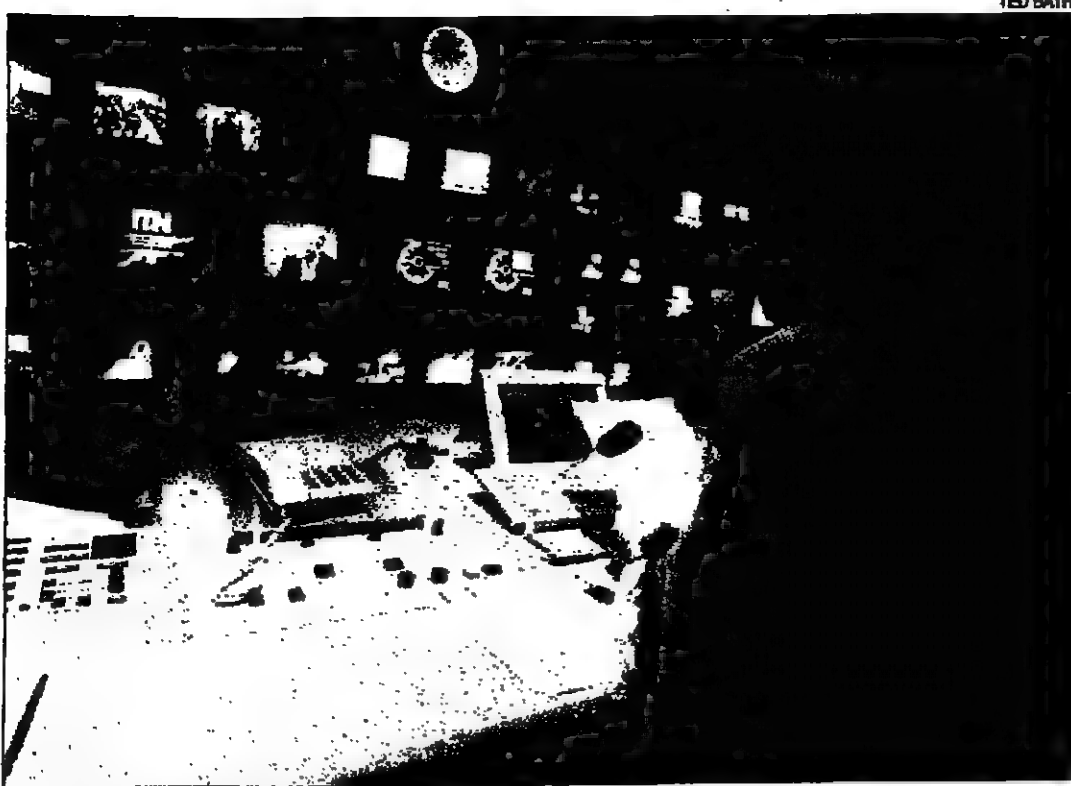
His remarks, which came two days after ITN announced 112 redundancies under strict cost-cutting measures, sent two more talented ITN employees into the arms of rival news organisations. Peter Allen, ITN's political correspondent, is one of the latest to leave, joining London News Network (LNN), the new local news programme to be jointly produced by London Weekend Television and Carlton Television from January 1. Joining him will be ITN's Vicky Knighton as senior news editor — working with Nigel Harcourt, former director of news intake for ITN — and Tim Ewart, ITN's former Moscow correspondent.

Nick Pollard, for years *News at Ten*'s highly respected executive producer, resigned to start up a media consultancy. Many staff fear that ITN is moving inexorably downmarket because of the ITV-imposed budget cuts, despite fierce denials of any decline in quality from management. They are also worried that both LNN and GMTV, which replaces *TV-am* in January, could pose a serious threat to ITN when the Independent Television Commission (ITC) reviews ITV's monopoly of ITV news provision in 1993.

Both LNN and GMTV are backed by Visnews, the television picture agency recently taken over by Reuters, which has undisputed ambitions to challenge ITN. Employees are also fearful that the BBC's talks with Sky News about satellite ventures, as well as the rapid expansion of World Service television, will limit the number of opportunities for ITN's expansion.

"Of course morale is low," says Bob Phillips, ITN's chief executive. Despite the fact that ITN has consistently wiped the floor with its competitors in successive Royal Television Society and Baffa journalism awards — this year, it claimed an unprecedented clean sweep of all five RTS awards — Mr Phillips has been put in the unenviable position of justifying drastic cost-cutting to his staff as a guarantee of ITN's long-term future, only for them to hear from Mr Quinn two days later that ITN will always be unprofitable, regardless of staffing levels.

Michael Nicholson, ITN's veteran foreign correspondent, attacked ITV executives over the weekend, labelling them "mugshots of Marmite TV", and concerned only with

Screening a troubled future: the scene inside the *News at Ten* control room during a broadcast

entertaining the lowest common denominator for the greatest possible profit. "How drastically, how brutally, the best of British television is being hacked about in the name of cost efficiency," he said.

Mr Quinn says ITN has been forced into a Catch 22 by "misconceived legislation" forcing its ITV company owners to sell off 51 per cent of their joint shareholdings by 1994. The 15 regional ITV companies are reluctant to commit themselves to a sufficiently generous supply deal when the value of their shares is in doubt. ITN, meanwhile, cannot find new backers until it has secured a contract that would make it attractive to new investors.

'No major news service in the world makes money as a stand-alone, commercial organisation. The government must think again'

"ITN's shares are not disposable," Mr Quinn says. "This will go on confusing the negotiations. No major news service in the world makes money as a stand-alone, commercial organisation." Even America's CNN is a loss-maker, subsidised by the considerable profits of the other cable-television interests of its owner, Ted Turner. "The government must think again," Mr Quinn says.

There is no evidence that the government plans to think again. Relations between ITN and ITV have been fraught with friction ever since Sir Alastair Burnet persuaded Margaret Thatcher, who was then prime minister, that the news company had to open itself up to new commercial opportunities presented by broadcasting deregulation. Sir Alastair ultimately forced to resign from ITN's board because of the dispute before stepping down a year later as its main newscaster, believed ITN had the potential to rival CNN on the world stage if it could be freed from the yoke of its parochial owners.

In the past two years, Mr Phillips

has presided over a painful transformation, from a heavily subsidised, cost-centred news service to the type of highly efficient, profit-making company that could attract new investors. The days of bloated salaries, limitless expense accounts or over-manning extravaganzas are well and truly over. Costs have been cut, expense accounts slashed and more than 300 people have lost their jobs over the past year.

When Mr Phillips took over as chief executive, he said that his biggest challenge would be to persuade the ITV companies that it was in their best interest to "maximise ITN's value" by supporting it wholeheartedly in the lead-up to 1994, the deadline for

disposal of shares. "The ITV shareholders must see the need not just to maintain quality of news but to create shareholder value," Mr Phillips said then. Sadly, ITV companies have not heeded his advice. Mr Quinn's public declaration that ITN shares are worthless does not exactly aid ITN's chances of bringing in new investors.

"I fundamentally disagree with Andrew about the value of shares in ITN," Mr Phillips says. "The value of ITN is going to be determined by the outcome of our contract negotiations with ITV. It will also be determined by the value ITN has as a brand — the quality, the high calibre of its staff, its international reputation. Of course it can be profitable. Any business can be profitable; it just has to earn more than it spends. There is no intrinsic reason why a news service cannot be profitable."

Mr Phillips says ITV, which earns an annual £75 million from advertising during *News at Ten*'s centre break, is already paying "considerably less this year than in the past".

He adds: "Next year they will be paying a figure considerably less than any ITV company forecast in its business plan during the franchise auction."

Although ITC guidelines instruct ITV companies to pay between £55 million and £60 million a year in 1991 prices (about £65 million now), several ITV executives have made it clear they don't want to pay more than £45 million or £50 million at 1993 prices. Several ITV companies, particularly Yorkshire, Tyne Tees, and HTV, are thought to have over-bid for their licences during last October's blind bid auction and could easily be faced by cash problems as early as next year.

ITN is further encumbered by projected losses of £5.5 million a year for the next four years on four under floors in its lavish new Gray's Inn Road purpose-built premises, ironically bought on the advice of its shareholders who mistakenly foresaw a new revenue stream in property.

But ITN's very survival will be thrown into serious doubt if the ITV companies refuse to pay ITN enough to let the company make a profit, let alone keep up its traditionally high journalistic standards which have often won it higher ratings than the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*. No shareholder of the ilk of CNN, or CBS, NBC and ABC, the three American networks now being courted by ITN, will want to buy shares in an unprofitable company when the breadth and quality of its news coverage have declined.

Tiring of what he sees as ITV's lack of support, Mr Phillips is determined that ITN will benefit from having "a smaller number of committed shareholders, which will help us grow as a first-class global news business". He also points out that ITV licences have won their franchises on the basis that they support and adequately fund "a high quality national and international news service".

The ITC will not comment directly on the battles between ITN and its shareholders, but the regulator does have the power to fine the ITV companies if they renege on their contractual obligations.

Lawyers are just as much a part of the *Have I Got News For You?* team as the script-writers

Let's face it, *The News Quiz* has a lot to answer for. For more years than Barry Took would care to count, the Radio 4 panel game has been inviting various journalistic and political hitherto to rip the week's papers apart, and with them the reputations of the people who figure most prominently in their pages.

It was inevitable that television should try to steal its clothes, but despite several attempts at a television news quiz, the problems were always the same. Where radio can rely upon newspaper cuttings, television has to have moving pictures, and news departments have never been keen to surrender footage to be used for the purposes of mere mockery. Parliament will not allow recordings of its proceedings to be used in anything but straight news and current affairs programmes. And on the rare occasions when a news show of sorts was put together, the presence of lights, cameras and an audience had a sobering effect on contestants.

One show that did make it past the pilot stage and on to the screen was *Have I Got News For You?*, produced for the BBC by Hat Trick Productions, the company set up by Jimmy Mulville, Denise O'Donoghue and other members of the team that made *Who Dares Wins*, one of Channel 4's earliest hits.

Early episodes showed all the usual signs of timidity and unease that had afflicted other news games. But, by series two, *Have I Got News For You?* began to find its pace. The team leaders — Ian Hislop, the editor of *Private Eye* and a *News Quiz* veteran, and the comedian Paul Merton — relaxed into their roles as chief mischief-makers; politicians and journalists invited on as guests began to understand that their job was not to compete, but to complement the two residents, and Angus Deayton, the chairman, came to realise that a



News leader: Angus Deayton, question-master and all-round wit

little rudeness can go a very long way towards improving the ratings. What had begun life as a risky gamble became a shining jewel in the BBC2 crown, topping its charts with audiences of about six million.

Exactly what brought about this transformation is anybody's guess, but one unlikely factor cannot be discounted. Lawyers are not famed for their sense of humour, but the squad of BBC solicitors who keep an eye on *Have I Got News For You?* not only get the joke, but want to see it kept in the show.

Sean McFerran is one of them. He says: "It isn't my job to tell them what they can't say, but to help them say it in a way that won't get them sued. It's all a game of meaning and inference, and it goes much further than just checking what is said. We have to monitor everything from the opening titles to the music to the juxtaposition of stills and newspaper cuttings: a sharp libel lawyer can very quickly draw inferences from the way a sequence of images and words is strung together."

The unusual luxury of dealing with lawyers who like to say "yes" is not lost on Harry Thompson, the programme's producer. "Sean once complained about a Jeffrey

Anchor gag because he considered it was insufficiently damaging," he says. "In some ways our legal experts are almost part of the writing team now."

"We do disagree over some things," Mr McFerran says. "Harry is very keen on negatives, and I'm not so sure. For instance, when Robert Maxwell was still around, Ian Hislop might have described him as a fine upstanding man who would never, ever, be found with his fingers in the till. In court, of course, a plaintiff would argue that everybody really knew Ian meant exactly the opposite, although I suppose he'd look pretty silly suing the programme for calling him a fine upstanding citizen. Not that it matters in Maxwell's case, of course. Ian can call him a fat old thief every week, and I just smile."

Should Mr Hislop pass such opinions on the living, there is time to repair the damage. "Angus and I prepare a draft script of his questions on Thursday morning and fax it to the lawyers," Mr Thompson says. "After that, various updates and revised versions pass each other on the fax machines until we go into the studio."

PATRICK STODDART
● *Have I Got News For You?* is broadcast on BBC2 on Fridays (10pm).

Madonna outvotes Maastricht

Nude photos and pets win in the Sunday-circulation battle

Whenever we were about to publish a really earnest article in one of the newspapers I used to work for, an experienced colleague used to mutter about "the merit of unread copy". Not many would read the article, he would say, but even as they flipped past, they would be flattered that the paper was treating them as serious citizens. Still greater cynics retorted that nothing sells newspapers faster than sex.

There was more flattery than sex in the quality papers last Sunday when both *The Sunday Times* and *The Independent on Sunday* published detailed versions of the Maastricht treaty. Sponsored by Andersen Consulting and BT, which covered the £3,000 cost of 24 tabloid pages. *The Sunday Times* published the full treaty — obtained on disc for £2.95 from the cover of PC Plus magazine — with only the minimum of commentary. A 16-page tabloid in *The Independent*

on Sunday was produced by Andrew Marshall, its West Europe editor, who spent four days and nights editing the 70,000 words to a coherent 20,000.

Meanwhile the Sunday paper with a real reputation for earnestness, the *Observer*, virtually ignored the Maastricht treaty and devoted nine pages of its magazine to full frontal and full rear-view pictures of Madonna, taken from her new book, *Sex*, served up with an accompanying Martin Amis essay and bought for £15,000.

Madonna Exposed, according to Donald Treford, editor of the *Observer*, was a "sociological study" of a "cultural phenomenon". According to *The Sun*, which denounced Mr Treford last Saturday in a page devoted to "The Observer", the *Observer* pictures were "simply too explicit" — even though the temptation to publish one of them was too strong to resist.

Unsurprisingly, it was sex, and Madonna's that beat Maastricht in the battle for sales, though neither *The Sunday Times* nor *The Independent on Sunday* promoted their Maastricht treaties on television.

After printing 700,000 copies, the *Observer* says it sold at least 610,000, an increase of 40,000 on the previous week. What remains to be seen is whether the *Observer* attracted promiscuous readers who will desert the paper this Sunday when there is no Madonna, or whether the new readers will stick — and whether Mr Treford's controversial decision will alienate traditional readers. Yet the paper with the biggest sales increase on Sunday was *The People* — which offered a packet of crisps with every copy and started *Pet People*, an eight-page pullout about cats and dogs. As a selling proposition, it seems pets are even hotter than sex.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

071-481 4481

CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

Our client is a Saudi-Austrian Joint Venture operating successfully in the building supply industry. With an annual turnover of 27 Mio Pounds, the Al-Hanout Group is planning to expand sales operations in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam

Manager Marketing & Sales Saudi Arabia Riyadh

Reporting to the Executive Manager, the emphasis will be on building the market for a new product through professional sales and marketing activities. Your responsibilities will include:

- development of marketing strategies for both domestic and export markets
- development and supervision of promotional activities (e.g. advertisement campaigns, fairs and exhibitions)
- co-ordination of activities of sales outlets and distributors
- supervision of sales staff
- preparation of sales forecasts and sales budgets
- key account management.

For this challenging position we are seeking an entrepreneurial candidate with a graduate degree of a European or US university and at least 3 years experience in a Sales Manager Position. Marketing experience in one of the Gulf states is an advantage but not prerequisite. To understand and target our products effectively you should be able to read technical drawings.

These positions offer good career opportunities for energetic men who enjoy the contact with different cultures. We offer an excellent, performance based, remuneration package including all expatriate benefits. If you feel that you have the necessary drive and commitment to succeed in a demanding, multinational environment write with full career details to: Hill International, International Department Fasangasse 20, 1030 Vienna, Austria, Phone No. + 43 1 798 35 66-25

HILL
INTERNATIONAL

For these locations we are now seeking top people who are challenged by the idea of building new markets instead of increasing margins.

Regional Sales Manager Saudi Arabia Jeddah and Dammam

Based in one of these two major cities in Saudi Arabia you will be running a regional sales-outlet. Supported by a small sales and administration staff you will be responsible for:

- conducting of sales negotiations
- execution of sales promotion programs and the organisation of local fairs and exhibitions.
- sales forecasts and follow up
- preparation of sales and financial reports
- managing local sales office, staff and equipment

The ideal candidate has a good technical understanding of architectural drawings. Solid commercial skills and an appropriate education as well as a high energy level are required. Experience in a sales position is mandatory to expand and build your market successfully.

Honour and decency in a venal trade

John Cole leaves our screens, Ian Aitken retires. Walter Ellis describes the strengths of two memorable commentators

Handcuffed a mixed blessing. Usher, Skeggs, Lord, O'Neill, Lord, Wakehurst, Lord, O'Neill, Lord, save us. Out before the troubles start. Shouldn't oughter, but over the water. *Manchester Guardian*, reporting the unions. Next to the Commons to talk to the loony yins. Politics? What a fix. Deputy editor, beaten to the top. Goes to *Observer*, bit of a sop. Funny voice. Falls again. Wonders when. Then to the Beeb. Couriers of par, ministers on the hour. By anyone's reckoning, the big league beckoning. Herringbone coat, mink at fanny, able to gloat. Refuses. Much too nice for that. Heart attack. On the tack. But shortly back. Thinner. Voice now endearing, leaders hearing. Mosses Thatcher. "What senior members of the cabinet are styling privately, David..." National institution without elocution. "This is John Cole at Westminster." Nothing sinister. Good old John. Can he really be gone?

The *Private Eye* lampoon of John Cole's famous BBC delivery has annoyed its intended victim for years, but it is flattery of the strictest kind. If Cole's heretically unconstructed Usher vowels still make English people smile, the smile has become one of recognition, not of dismissal. While his regional competitors are regarded at best as semi-detached members of the Union, murdering one another or leaving bombs in litter bins, he has been adopted as one of



Message man: Ian Aitken

the British family, cherished for his homespun wisdom, admired for his refusal to "knuckle under to convention". Happily, his retirement last week as the BBC's political editor is a milestone, not a tombstone. He will continue to do occasional "big" interviews on television and is to present *Down Your Way* on Radio 4. He will also continue with his column in *New Statesman*. Yet his absence from the *Nine O'Clock News*, the *Today* programme and *Newsnight* will be deeply felt. He had an enviable knack of exuding judgment and gravitas without being pompous or obscure, and we always felt he was taking us into his confidence, rather as if we were meeting an old friend with a good story to tell in the local.

He would stand outside Westminster or in Whitehall and somehow reassure us that even though there was a crisis going on behind him, it was not serious and should not prevent us from enjoying our evening. While keeping us admini-

bly informed about failings of our masters, he communicated a sense of well-being that put politics securely in its place, somewhat below a good weekend in Esher.

Ian Aitken, whose retirement as the political editor of *The Guardian* after 17 years coincides with Cole's departure, represents a different strain of journalism, more patrician in outlook, more at home in city society, yet more purposefully committed to social change. Oxford-educated Aitken, married into a landed Scots family, three of whose members are titled, and worked as a factory inspector after the war, naively believing that this was the way to advance the cause of the working class.

His parents were Scottish communists, who broke with the party in 1939 after Stalin's accommodation with Hitler. After Oxford, the London School of Economics and the Royal Navy, he worked as a reporter on *Tribune*. He moved soon afterwards to Lord Beaverbrook's *Daily Express*, whose jingoistic imperialism was balanced by a large foreign budget and the opportunity this gave to young men keen to see the world.

Aitken reported brilliantly for the *Express* from Algeria and other war zones. At home he was the first to reveal John Profumo's intended resignation. However, it was as a political analyst and commentator in *The Guardian* that he made his name, concerned with the message, not the medium, and regarding himself as "an unconstructed and unapologetic Bevinite". His was not the politics of journalism, but the journalism of politics. Cole had brought Aitken on to *The Guardian*, and Aitken was the campaign manager for his benefactor during Cole's failed attempt to become editor.



Time to go: John Cole, who talked politics with authority but without effort, has retired but may be back for special occasions

ian, and Aitken was the campaign manager for his benefactor during Cole's failed attempt to become editor.

The two men, one an enlightened member of the bourgeoisie, the other a quiescent revolutionary

with bourgeois tendencies, remain firm friends and show that journalists can be honourable and decent, as well as incisive, in an increasingly venal trade. Aitken dislikes word processors and professionally is most at home, glass of Scotch in

hand, dictating crisp prose down the telephone. Perhaps he will now do this with obituaries. At 64, Cole will happily stand under an umbrella in driving rain, remarking without irony on political life. Younger journalists, who often

behave like policemen on an accelerated promotion scheme, are unlikely to see either as a role model for the 1990s. If so, it is a pity, for they have each achieved something rare in journalism: they have risen with grace.

Men are scared to death of getting to know themselves. I am drawn to this observation — not yet a conclusion — after reading some of the new breed of men's magazines. When I edited women's magazines, men would often tell me that they discovered more about women from women's magazines than they did from their own. Men say women live in a different world, lifting the corner of their impenetrable cloak of secrecy only through their magazines.

I would explain to men that women's magazines were a sort of fifth column for a sex that at times felt aggrieved, undervalued, an emerging "nation" beset by a thousand exclusive problems initiated by its colonial "masters". On the other hand, women's magazines celebrated the joys of womanhood, and that made us feel a little better about ourselves. The self-analysis of women's magazines seemed to me sometimes to displace and excuse the fact that emancipation was so slow, that women were taking so long to find their place in a modern world.

The absence of general interest magazines — magazines appealing to men as men, rather than men as sex machines, heavy metal rockers, sex organs or computer heads — was because men did not feel threatened. They ruled the modern world of their invention and their place in it was

General interest magazines for men have caught on in the past ten years, but what do they say about their readers?

Loading the magazine to pull in the male reader

established without question. So is it the changing balance of power between men and women that has described the need for general interest magazines for men? Suddenly the slaves are threatening to run the state.

Or is it simply that men are now comfortable with the magazine format through 20 years of Sunday magazine supplements? They realise that their image is no longer threatened by looking at war and politics and finance and sport in glossy colour.

The one thing men do not seem ready for is introspection, and there is no chance of any of that in their magazines. Their *Angels* are safe. Self-analysis is a no-no in the new glossy men's magazines.

Women's magazines are riddled with self-doubt and introspection. Every issue has a "know yourself" article or quiz or at least an exploration of some deeply hidden motivation: why do you want to be fat? Why do you want to achieve/not to achieve? After 20 years of editing women's magazines, there is not an inch of my psyche with which I am not on familiar terms.

Men's magazines are all about style and people and events and action and lofty reviews of esoteric arts shows. At least that is how the new glossies seem to me. Men have

been criticising women's magazines for decades. What's sauce for the goose, chaps. Revenge is sweet.

In their October issues, both *Q* and *Esquire* offer more than 200 pages — most of which is advertising — for £2. They are exactly the same size, and the casual, disinterested reader would say she could not tell the difference.

They sell fewer than 100,000 copies each, but *Q* is pushing ahead faster than *Esquire*. I do not know the editor of *Q* but I gather he has been mentioned in gossip columns, so he must be somebody. *Q* comes from the *Vogue* stable and the *Vogue* imprint is upon it. It is not about "issues", although Art Malik adds some street cred. It is up-to-date, a bit Freud's Corner, but then this intro to the excellent big car piece on the new car designers is probably as good as sex to a style freak.

"Today has just turned into tomorrow. At the Bar Azimut in Turin, where the walls are unpainted, the bar is stainless steel, the beer bottles plugged with lime and the soundtrack slides from Sympathy for the Devil through bleep-ronic to Jackson Five and back again. This is Turin as Barcelona as Armani as jeans-fash: life-style as design, design as life-style." The star cover story is Barry Humphreys, topical with his book out, but the pictures are better than the words.

Every magazine needs a function, and you buy *Q* for the fashion when you need to buy a jacket just as you buy *What Car?* when you need to buy a car. However, for the *Q* reader, clothes and cars are not hobbies.

"After all," says David Thomas, formerly of *Punch* and author of a forthcoming book about men's awareness, "trousers are always the same length, so there isn't this obsession with fashion that

women have."

The magazine's tone is distinctly 1990s, with lip-poppers for breakfast on the food page and Marks & Spencer wine-tasting; alternative investments on the money page; freeze-dried strawberries and palm-sized voice-activated computers on the "Objects" page. The best piece for me was "Killer Komic". In order to dodge an earth-threatening missile from the galaxy, the man who invented the hydrogen bomb suggests we chuck a nuke 10,000 times more powerful than anything now known at it. Well, he would, wouldn't he?

Esquire has a new editor, a woman called Rosie Boycott. As two of the traditional women's mass weeklies are edited by men, I find no contradiction in Ms Boycott doing it for the boys. Strong features include a

whiff of Third World, a hint of protest bringing it nearer to *Arena* (the first and probably still the best) and away from its traditional roots. Jimmy Nail is the cover story, although Spike Lee gets equal coverage inside. In spite of its ancient American origins, it feels younger than *Q*, a little less self-assured perhaps, rather self-consciously going for "things men are interested in", such as boxing, fishing (and presumably freeze-dried strawberries, as they make another appearance here).

Esquire has yet to find a function, a reason to buy. I suspect Ms Boycott is trying to signal it for good writing. Certainly this month's *Esquire* maintains its literary pretensions with an exclusive extract of the latest *Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

The star piece for me, however, is by this boric 25-year-old trying to pick up a rich 80-year-old on the QE2. He actually feels a frisson of jealousy as the ship's tall, tanned confident social director moves in on the old girl

and wins. Of course, neither title tells you much about what men think. "Trouble is," Mr Thomas says, "if you print what men really think about sex you would not be able to sell the magazine on the bookstalls." His researches, however, have revealed a large constituency of men wanting to discover more about themselves. They are sick of being put down by women and want somebody to speak up for them on such things as divorce and battering, about their hurt at being automatically labelled child abusers and rapists by women. I feel a magazine coming on.

Cigar Aficionado is not it. You cannot buy it in the UK, but for anybody wanting to start his own magazine, it is a fascinating model. The editor says launching a magazine in 1992 calls for a stiff drink and a fine cigar. A cigar enthusiast himself, he threw out business wisdom and simply announced the launch.

Cigar Aficionado is not a trade magazine for cigar manufacturers. It is a lifestyle magazine for people who smoke cigars, and it is big and so glossy that you could put on your make-up in its reflection. It reeks of smoke and money and class and age. The first issue's "Welcome" page explains that 38 per cent of potential readers are million-

sires. As you might expect, there is much about the making of famous cigars, a blind cigar-tasting with two Cubans topping the league.

But it is the writing that stands out. Famous cigar smokers including Gray Talese and Pierre Salinger write about their passion as they have never been asked to before. The drink page is all about whisky and port, because you know your readers drink whisky and port if they smoke cigars. There are techno-porn pictures of cigar cutters. Gregory Hines is the star interview. The best piece asks the question: where can I smoke in peace? Perfectly in tune with the unfortunate smoker, it gives a list of where cigars are welcome. It is a rather short list.

The payoff piece by Pierre Salinger is about Kennedy, Cuba and cigars. The formula is so perfect, so rich, so targeted, that I wondered whether it would work with any other subject. I tried marmalade. Kennedy, Miami and Marmalade: Where Can I Eat An Orange in Public? Great Marmalades of the World; Toast and Coffee; the Gings and Fred of the Breakfast Table; Born with Silver Spoons — the Orange Heiresses of California; Madonna: Me and My Marmalade. It works. Which must surely be why the magazine world is predicting a hit for the big cigar quarterly.

BOLD, BRIGHT

Intelligent person required for intense Estate Agency, next to major West London tube station.

Good office, good package, think & call: Stephen (081) 991 5599.

TELEVISION PRESENTERS COURSE

A one day crash course for the absolute beginner.

"At the forefront of presenter training" - The Sunday Times.

This unique course is held at a top London studio and places are limited. Students take away a showpiece of their day's work.

For more information please call: Positive Productions on 0754 744078/744874.

TRAINEE PARTNERS

2 individuals aged 23-30, with sound academic background required. Experience not necessary but the ability to communicate is essential. Potential to progress to full partner with full participation in 2 to 3 years.

Call DAVID ALLARD on 071 373 886/885

SHIPTON AND HENAGE LTD

Enthusiastic sales people required for small go-ahead friendly company in Battersea, Basing.

£10,000 + Commission. Please call for information 071 585 8484.

REDUNDANCY?

For best advice on how to survive financially

FREEPHONE 0800 1 22 333

for direct connection to your local Financial Adviser

SEP NETWORK

SEP Network is a network of independent Financial Advisers who are members of the Financial Services Commission (FSC) and are regulated by the FSC. SEP Network is a registered company under the FSC.

SALES EXECUTIVES

Ace Novelty Ltd, a leading manufacturer and distributor of plush toys for the Theme Parks and Leisure Industry is now seeking experienced Sales Executives for the:

- North East
- East
- South West

Excellent package; attractive salary, performance bonus, Company car and phone.

Please send or fax C.V.s to:

Sales Manager
Ace Novelty Ltd.
Atlas Estates Unit F
Cross Street
Bradley, Bilston
West Midlands
WV14 8TS

Fax no.: 0902 47652

PIMS

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT in PHOTOCOPYING DIVISION

PIMS, a leading media services and reprographic company, has a vacancy for production assistant. Must have had work experience and client contact, preferably with some knowledge of print and copying processes. Used to working to tight deadlines, this person will be involved in the booking in of all work, liaising with clients on requirements and delivery. Flexible approach and good communication skills are essential requirements.

Apply in first instance to Sarah Moss to discuss the position on 071 226 1000

7 DRAKE INTERNATIONAL

SALES EXECUTIVE

Our client requires an experienced person with a field sales background to be in SE London. Primary freight and haulage sales, the position offers a package of 15k + commission + car. For the opportunity to work with one of Europe's largest freight forwarders, call Carl - 081 317 3915 (Agt)

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

A challenging and exciting position for a Marketing Executive based at Head Office in SW16. Ability to use initiative working under pressure, meeting deadlines, liaising with suppliers and retailers. 2-3 years experience in marketing/sales training essential.

Salary: circa £15K plus company car.

Please send CV's and covering letter to:

Carole Watling, Personnel
FotoStop Express
FotoStop House
Fallsbrook Road
London SW16 6DY.

KEITH CARTER & ASSOCIATES

are a small consultancy who research and present detailed career profiles. A vacancy exists for:

AN EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT

The post will involve investigative research into labour market and career structures plus assessing earnings for a range of occupations. The applicant will need to communicate well and obtain information from a wide variety of sources. They will also have to present complex arguments clearly and concisely in report format so will need proven writing skills. It may also, in some cases, be necessary to explain and argue the career evaluation orally, so the confidence and ability to speak to and present information in a formal setting will also be necessary. Although no specific background is envisaged it will be expected that the applicant will have a good understanding of numerous occupational areas and a common sense approach to both the problems of getting and progressing in a career. A competitive salary is offered for this challenging post.

For an application form contact: Keith Carter & Associates, 142 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LA. Tel: 071-887 8818

Closing date for applications: 19th November 1992

REDUNDANCY?

LEARN FROM HIS MISTAKES

When things got tough, the dinosaur failed to adapt quickly enough.

Selfstart teaches you to adapt. It's a radical new initiative to help people get back to work. It consists of an intensive one-day seminar which allows you to evaluate yourself and your prospects for successful self-employment.

You discover how to take better control of your future — and whether you opt for self-employment or not, you will become clearer and more confident about which career path you should choose.

To help you assess self-employment, you'll also be able to discuss three highly respected self-employment opportunities which have worked successfully for other people in your position.

Selfstart is sponsored by Whitbread, Printaprint and Royal Life, and costs just £100 (+VAT). Places are still available on Selfstart seminars in Central London and Gatwick on 22nd Oct. and 3rd Nov. respectively, and bookings are welcome from employers as well as individuals.

For further details, please call

0892 522955

Selfstart, Napier House, 14-16 Mount Ephraim Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN11 1EE

selfstart

MAKING JOBS FOR PEOPLE AND PEOPLE FOR JOBS

PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT

Now the South wants special help too

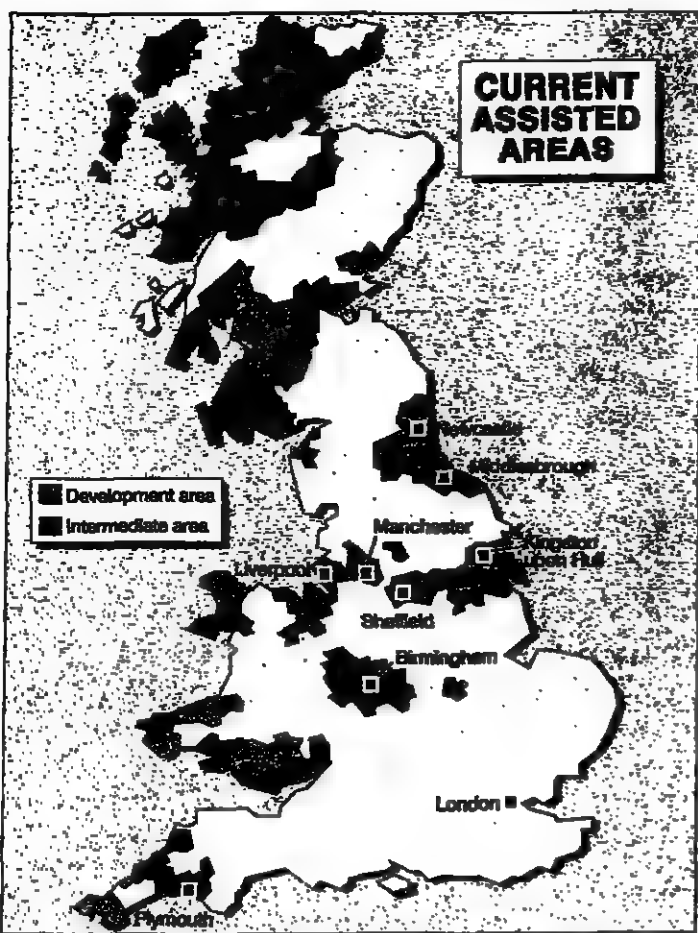
Edward Fennell finds once prosperous regions joining forces to apply for Assisted Area status

By the end of the year we could see a fundamental redrawing of the map of Assisted Areas. In particular, if local authorities in the South-East get what they want, there could be a marked shift away from the North and Midlands and towards areas along the southern coast which have been badly hit by the recession.

Traditionally prosperous places such as Fareham in Hampshire, Hastings in East Sussex, and parts of Suffolk are queuing up for the benefits that Assisted Area status could bring. The South no longer accepts that the North should always be allowed first claim on public handouts.

The Assisted Area map shows in which parts of the country the regional industrial incentives operated by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office are available. The current map was drawn in 1984, but the government announced this summer that it wants a new one published at the turn of the year. Representations for inclusion were invited from local authorities and other organisations, to be in by September 30.

Local levels of unemployment are usually the most important criterion for inclusion. The 1984 map, for example, has no Assisted Areas south of a line from the Wash to Bristol. But the structure of the national economy has changed radically in the past five years, with many towns in the South falling victim to recession and structural change. There are now unemployment blackspots in the leafy suburbs



Currently designated Assisted Areas: applications for inclusion on future maps have already been delivered to the government

just as there are in old manufacturing areas.

In particular, the cutbacks after the end of the Cold War have taken a heavy toll in areas such as the Solent coastline, where the Royal Navy and the hi-tech defence industry have been twin pillars of local prosperity. A decline in the naval dockyards and cutbacks in equipment contracts have thrown thousands out of work, and recent announcements of redundancies in the defence research agency may have finally condemned the area known as Greater Portsmouth.

Neighbouring local authorities

in the South are now working together to claim Assisted Area status. For example, the four authorities of Portsmouth, Gosport, Havant and Fareham have come together to produce a well-argued bid despite their starkly different social and residential profiles.

Portsmouth, with its established Economic Development Unit, took the lead. Recognising that it was too small an area to stand much chance of success by itself, it invited Gosport to join in. Then, at the suggestion of the DTI, it brought in Fareham and Havant as well.

"We were quite happy to allow

Portsmouth to take the lead," comments Bob Leach of Fareham district. "After all, the Portsmouth people were much more experienced in attracting investment, and had the staff to do it. Until recently, we in Fareham have really wanted to keep a low profile when it came to attracting new investment: basically we didn't need it."

Bringing four authorities into line to make a co-ordinated bid without permitting local rivalries to spoil the case has been a triumph of teamwork between elected members. Mike Hancock, the leader of Portsmouth city council and a former local MP, has led the exercise, and it has required his delicate negotiating skills to keep everyone happy. Only once, when people in Gosport felt they were being overlooked, have there been real tensions between the parties.

A sensitive subject that has surfaced in middle-class areas is whether there is any stigma attached to being classified as an Assisted Area. Places like Fareham may feel it rather a fall from grace to be put in the same category as Liverpool or Bradford.

"We've had to make clear that Assisted Area status is not like being an Urban Deprivation Area," says Mike Chambers, an official from Portsmouth city council involved in the bid. "We're not suggesting the area is falling apart socially. But the reality is that because of fundamental changes in the economy we face unemployment problems as severe as parts of the North. It is a simple statistical fact. We've contributed to the national pot in the past - we feel it's now our turn to get some of the benefits."

It will be some months before the outcome of the Assisted Area bids are known. The indications are that the government would like to reduce the map, not increase it. But for areas in the South faced with an economic vacuum, success in the Assisted Area stakes may be an important chance to recover their former prosperity.

The council tax is blighted by the property slump, and may yet give way to a new rates system, writes Colin Farrington

No local tax will ever be top of the polls

Local taxes will always be highly visible. Most people do not have the slightest idea how much tax they pay to central government: they do not compute their total value added tax, custom and excise duties, and most people do not even know how much income tax they pay. But we all know precisely how much our local tax bill is, because it comes to us in one go, even if paid by installments.

Aside from public cynicism about local taxes in the wake of the poll tax debate, there are two reasons why introducing the council tax cannot be as straightforward as it seems.

The first derives from the tweaking of what is basically the rates by the introduction of a personal element, most particularly an automatic discount for single householders. There is in fact no economic or social case for such an automatic discount. Not every single-person household is badly off.

What makes matters worse is that it is widely said that because half of the council tax is related to property and half to a personal element, and because the average bill relates to the average two-person household, single people are "entitled" to a 25 per cent discount. This only adds a touch of ideological insult to injury.

The whole system of single person discounts and the baggage of other special exemptions inherited from the poll tax will make the collection of tax unnecessarily expensive (though still much simpler than the poll tax).

The second and more fundamental point relates to the valuation banding exercise, which has already been the subject of some silly season misreporting.

Any property tax must be based on a single valuation date. April

1991 was the right date to choose for the council tax valuations, as it gave time for a proper process of assessment and its orderly conversion into tax bills.

It also seemed to fit quite nicely into the house price cycle - the most commentators thought that April 1991 would be a low point, so that when people received their assessments in 1993 they would be pleasantly surprised to see their taxes based on out-of-date low

determines what share of total local taxation must be borne by the each individual household.

If everyone's property has fallen by the same amount since April 1991, and all other things are equal (such as the level of forecast government grant as a share of local authority expenditure), the fall will have no effect on the actual amount of tax payable by each household.

The whole process would have been much simpler if the government had followed professional advice and had not fixed the valuation bands prior to the general survey of properties. Under the system which most professionals preferred, properties would have been banded individually and put into bands to pay a flat-rate tax in each, once the distribution was known.

It would also have been possible under that system to build in some regional variation to compensate for the differing ranges of property prices. The reason this scheme was not adopted was purely a matter of timing and the overriding political imperative to have the replacement for the poll tax in place before the general election of April 1992 and to show that it could be effective, however flawed, by April 1993.

While the new tax has not yet been finally determined - and indeed should be supported since the only practical alternative is centralisation - one more set of political gaffes seems to be coming home to roost before we eventually return, I believe, to the quiet life of a restored property tax.



Colin Farrington: costly calculations

values, and would believe that they were being undercharged.

Unfortunately, house prices have not recovered, and a general fall has gone up that the tax is unfair, particularly in those areas where there has been a slightly greater than average decline in prices. Given the state of the economy and the over-stretching of personal budgets, people may well react badly when they are billed on the basis of house prices substantially greater than they are able to realise.

What they misunderstand, of course, is that the purpose of having valuations for a tax is to establish relative not absolute values. What matters is the value relative to other houses in the same local authority area, which

● The author is director of the Institute of Revenue, Rating and Valuation, and author of Council Tax: Your Burden, available from 41 Doughty St, London WC1N 2LF, at £6.99.

DIRECTING FINANCIAL STRATEGIES IN SOCIAL HOUSING

English Churches Housing Group is a national organisation committed to providing homes for those in housing need. Each year we make a substantial investment towards furthering our social housing aims. We now need two experienced individuals to play key roles in our future financial direction.

Deputy Director of Finance

circa £35,000 pa plus car

An experienced financial professional you will be responsible for controlling and co-ordinating our annual budget and the day to day management of our central finance department. It is important that you are a fully qualified accountant (ACCA, ACA) and that you can demonstrate experience of financial management at a senior level, to enable you to have the necessary insight to be successful in this strategic role. We will be looking to you to regularly review our systems and to make recommendations where appropriate.

Naturally, you will have first class leadership and interpersonal skills with a track record in presenting and negotiating at the highest levels.

Internal Audit Assistant

circa £20,000 plus subsidised lease car

Your brief will be to assist in the establishment of an effective internal audit service. This will

involve reviewing and appraising the adequacy of our financial procedures and ensuring that our assets are properly controlled.

You will need at least three years' audit experience, practical computing knowledge coupled with the ability to prioritise your workload to meet changing deadlines.

You will be working closely with our management team, so it is important that you can communicate clearly and concisely with people at all levels.

For further information and application form, for either post please contact the Personnel Department, English Churches Housing Group, Sutherland House, 70-78 West Hendon Broadway, London NW9 7BT. Tel: 081 203 9233. CVs are not accepted. Closing date: 30 October 1992.

English Churches Housing Group is committed to achieving equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community and from job seekers.

English Churches Housing

Macclesfield Health Authority

Deputy Director of Finance

Salary circa £30,000 + 1992 Pay rise (provisional)

We are a regional health trust and need an experienced financial professional to lead our management accounting, financial planning and internal audit. This is an exciting and challenging position and the post holder will be a key contributor to the financial management of the trust. In addition to sound technical ability you should demonstrate excellent managerial and interpersonal skills, and a proven track record in the NHS, preferably in a similar role.

Information packs are available from: Personnel Department, Public Health, Victoria Rd, Macclesfield SK10 5JE. Tel: 04253 661177. Please quote Ref No. F1. Closing date for receipt of CVs is 25 October 1992. Interviews will be on 3 & 4 November 1992. An equal opportunities employer.

REDUNDANCY?

For best advice on how to survive financially

FREEPHONE 0800 1 22 333

for direct connection to your local impartial Financial Adviser

SEP NETWORK

All financial advice is given free of charge. The members of the SEP Network are experienced and qualified financial advisers and are regulated under the FSA.

All this member replies should be addressed to:

BOX No. 1000
C/o Times Newspapers
P.O. BOX 404
Mileage Street
London E1 600

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

LSE Foundation

Deputy Director

The London School of Economics and Political Science is establishing the LSE Foundation to raise funds and develop alumni relations with a view to celebrating the School's Centenary in 1995 but also the School's long term development.

The Deputy Director will be responsible to the Director for all aspects of managing the Foundation including financial control.

The post is full-time and will be offered as a four year fixed term contract, with the possibility of renewal for a further fixed term. The salary will be not less than £32,000 per annum including London Allowance.

The successful candidate will have flair, imagination and first class managerial ability with a proven track record in business, civil service or charitable organisations.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Staffing Office, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE. Telephone 071 404 4789. Please quote reference 640. Applications should be returned by 9 November 1992.

Working towards Equal Opportunities



BURLINGTON DANES CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Danes Building, Du Cane Road, London, W12 0TY
Headteacher: Michael A. Bedford
Voluntary Aided

General Manager and Clerk to the Governors

APTEC Scale PO5 - PO7
(£25,737 - £30,288 including London Weighting)

Applications are invited for the newly created post of General Manager to be filled from 1st January 1993 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Duties will include general management and development of the school premises, the provision of administrative and support services, personnel work for teaching and support staff, management of support staff, acting as Clerk to the Governing Body.

The General Manager will be the most senior member of the support staff and a member of the Senior Management Team.

Burlington Danes is a popular multicultural inner city comprehensive school with high expectations of academic achievement and personal development. It is situated on a unique 10-acre site in pleasant surroundings within easy reach of Central London.

Applicants will be expected to have experience in some or all of the following areas: management, teaching/learning, personnel work. They should have computing experience and entrepreneurial flair together with the ability to work sympathetically in a school environment.

For further details and an application form please send an A4 size stamped addressed envelope to the Acting Clerk at the school. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 3rd November 1992.

Short listing will take place on Thursday 5th November 1992. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to make an informal visit to the school some time before the interview which will be held on Saturday 28th November 1992.

The Governors of Burlington Danes School are an equal opportunities employer

Accountancy Personnel

OUR CLIENT

Sandwell Hospitals & Community Health Service is a 4th Wave Trust applicant with a contract income of c.£57m. For 2 years it has been working towards providing "Seamless" healthcare from both Acute and Primary Services within the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell. The Director of Finance will be a key member of the established Unit Management Board providing financial and strategic input to lead it into Trust status and beyond.

THE ROLE

Your key areas of responsibility will be:

- ★ To provide comprehensive financial advice to the General Manager, Clinicians and other Managers in the Unit.
- ★ To lead the Unit's value for money and cost challenge strategy

YOU

You will be a qualified Accountant, with proven ability in the following areas:

- ★ Management and motivation of staff with effective communication skills at all levels.
- ★ Influencing non finance professionals to take account of finance implications on shared decisions.
- ★ To lead the development of a comprehensive pricing structure leading to cost per case pricing arrangements.
- ★ To put in place and manage a full Trust finance function.
- ★ A leader who is also a team player willing to share full information.
- ★ Experience of developing complex financial management systems.

To accept this challenge, please telephone or write to Paul Mallinson or Louise Kelly at: Accountancy Personnel, 14 Temple Street, Birmingham B2 5BG.

Tel: (021) 643 6201. All applications should be received by Tuesday 27th October.

Accountancy Personnel is an equality opportunities employer.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CONTRACTING

SANDWELL/ WEST MIDLANDS

£35,500 + CAR

+ P.R.P.

+ FULL RELOCATION PACKAGE

NORTH LONDON HOSPICE

EXPERIENCED FUND-RAISER

The North London Hospice has successfully raised over £3 million to build a new purpose designed hospice for this area of North London.

We are a Registered Charity and rely almost entirely on voluntary contributions from the local community and charitable trusts. Our average costs will be in the region of £1.5 million a year.

The hospice has four charity shops and fund-raising committees but needs an experienced Fund-raiser to lead a team, to co-ordinate and expand the current work and to develop new ideas in order to ensure the costs of on-going care are met on our annual basis.

This is an important and demanding post. Only applicants with a proven record should apply. Salary negotiable according to age and experience.

Further information from the Administrator: Informal visits can be arranged. Applicants should send full CV with bank references covering latest address in confidence to:

Tracy Montgomery, Human Resources, North London Hospice, 47 Wembley Avenue, North Wembley, London NW2 5TY. Tel: 081 345 8841.

Closing date: 23 October 1992.

Registered Charity No. 28300

Hays

LAW

The disaster lottery

Compensation to victims is often decided by chance factors.
Patrick Griggs reports

In the wake of the El Al jumbo jet inferno in Amsterdam last week, relatives of the eighty or so killed, and the injured, are likely to seek compensation.

Most of the victims of disasters in the UK in recent years or their families have received compensation. Under English law, damages are assessed according to well understood rules, so that there is some uniformity in the amounts that courts will award. But this uniformity can be distorted if the wrongdoer has a statutory right to limit his or her liability.

Owners of ships and aircraft are entitled to limit their liability under several international conventions. To make life more complicated, some of these conventions have been amended over the years, so that the limit imposed in any country may depend on whether that country has adopted protocols amending the original limits.

A look at recent British disasters reveals how random the impact of limitation of liability can be. British Airways, as the owner of the Boeing 737 that caught fire in Manchester in 1985, Pan Am, as the owner of the Boeing 727 destroyed by a terrorist bomb at Lockerbie in 1988, and British Midland, as the owner of the Boeing 737 that crashed on the M1 in 1989, were all entitled in principle to limit their liability according to the Warsaw Convention on carrying passengers by air and its protocols. The liability limit applicable in every case depended on such random variables as the airports of embarkation and disembarkation.

The company owning the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, which capsized at Zeebrugge in 1987, was entitled in principle to limit its liability for every loss of life and personal injury claim to about £38,000 a passenger under the 1974 Athens Convention on carrying passengers and their luggage by sea. In the event P&O did not insist on the strict application of that limit.

The *Marchioness* river cruiser, although undoubtedly carrying passengers when it sank in 1989, was not a seagoing vessel. The company that owned it, however, was entitled to limit its liability according to the 1976 London Convention. Under this, the limitation fund of a vessel, whether seagoing or not, on death and injury claims, is calculated by reference to the number of passengers the



Amsterdam aftermath: the resulting death and injury claims may be limited by a wide variety of legal clauses

vessel is licensed to carry. Meanwhile, the company that owned the colliding vessel, the *Bowbelle*, was entitled to limit its liability, also under the London Convention, but according to a quite different formula linked to the vessel's tonnage.

In each instance, the owner was "in principle" entitled to limit liability. That right to limit is lost, however, if the accident leading to the death or injury claim was due to the

involved in the incident, such as the aircraft manufacturer. In such a case, the claim may be pursued against that company, which may not have the benefit of limitation.

This "US element" certainly influenced the outcome in the British Airways disaster and in the Pan Am bombing. Possibly the relatives of the El Al victims will follow the Lockerbie families' example and try to obtain high American jury awards made in this

I have said nothing so far about the ditching of the Chinook helicopter in the North Sea in 1986, the Piper Alpha rig explosion in 1988, the King's Cross fire in 1988, the Clapham Junction accident in 1989, the Hillsborough football stadium disaster in 1989 and the ditching of the Super Puma helicopter near the Cormorant Alpha platform in 1992. The Chinook, Piper Alpha and Super Puma accidents involved people travelling to their place of work or already there.

Employers are not generally protected by any international limitation regime against claims from their employees, although they may have some protection under domestic legislation. The King's Cross and Clapham Junction incidents involved claims against public transport utilities, which, equally, have no right to limit liability on passengers' claims.

The Hillsborough disaster involved innocent football supporters. The police authority, against which the victims and their relatives proceeded, had no right to limit liability on death or injury claims.

Against this background, it is difficult to describe the rights of the 2,000 or so victims of these disasters as anything other than a lottery. I am tempted to ask whether abandoning the right to limit liability on death and injury claims would not be better for everybody. In the UK damages awards are in the range of mean to reasonable, and if insurers calculated their premiums on the basis of a

recognised damages scale without the benefit of limitation rights, people would know where they stood.

Before any transport operator rejects this proposition, he should speak to some of the operators in the transport-related accidents. He will find that in most cases the imposition of an artificial limit on the amount of damages that could be paid to victims has been a public embarrassment and certainly not an advantage. Nobody wants to see an innocent victim suffer.

● The writer is the senior partner of Ince & Co and author of *Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims* with Richard Williams. Lloyd's of London Press, £45.

Shocks in store when the JPs do their sums

THE Criminal Justice Act 1991, in force since October 1, introduced the so-called unit fines system, which is intended to make fines more consistent nationwide and lead to less defaulting because penalties are linked to a defendant's ability to pay.

Pilot schemes in Bradford, Swansea, Basingstoke and Teesside have apparently shown less defaulting but it remains to be seen what happens now that magistrates can impose much higher maximum fines than under the pilot schemes. Maximum fines have risen from £2,000 to £5,000 in the adult courts and from £400 to £1,000 for defendants aged 14 to 17 in the new youth courts. Parents must be required to pay fines for those aged ten to 16, unless to do so would be unreasonable.

What is unreasonable? Inner London has not had a pilot scheme but training in the system has thrown up curious results, thanks to the separation of units imposed from the reality of the fines. Consider this. You are the parent of a boy aged 14 about to be sentenced for robbery. As the lookout, he is deemed to be less to blame than the two older boys involved. The magistrates decide on a fine. You might be forgiven for thinking that you would have to pay less if your son was less to blame.

You would certainly find it unfair to discover that you will have to pay up to £1,000, while the older boys, although subject to the same maximum, pay far less. The reason is the logical one that, if you have been honest about your income on the means form, you are seen to have more money than they do. Will it make you control your son better, which is what the Criminal Justice Act intends? Or will it seem unreasonable to you?

You may not understand the situation, but under the Act, magistrates have to follow a prescribed system of units. As with other disposals, it is the seriousness of the offence that counts. Magistrates have to impose units commensurate with the seriousness of an offence. Robbery has a maximum of 50 units. In the hypothetical case outlined, the court imposes 35 units each on the older boys and 20 on the 14-year-old. Only then do we look at the disposable incomes and work out that the older boys will have to pay £175 each and the younger boy's parent £800. Once the magistrates have decided the units, they are stuck with them.

Of course, magistrates will be dealing with

reality and no doubt treading very carefully. If we had had a free hand, we could have imposed a custodial sentence on the older boys and perhaps a supervision order on the 14-year-old. Under the Act, although a community service order is no longer to be regarded as an alternative to custody, the supervision order is still available.

It is unlikely — and "good sentencing practice" would probably preclude it — but we might have opted for a compensation order alone as this remains a sentence in itself. Costs are also to be expressed in money rather than units.

For traffic offences, fines can be raised to the same amount as the fixed penalty under the 1988 Road Traffic Act. They can also be raised in television licence offences by an amount not exceeding the cost of the licence. Nonetheless, the difficulties with units of "blame" and the actual fine remain. Because the people in front of us will want to know only what they have to pay, there may be many shocks. The level of fines in the inner London youth courts seems likely to be fairly academic — £100 was the maximum we could impose on offenders under 14 and this has now risen to £250. In my experience, we seldom reached anywhere near the previous level but now it will be anybody's guess.

Trying to work out what people will have to pay is extremely complicated. Magistrates have had to come up with what is called a deemed expenditure level, showing average allowances for their particular area. If a fine is contemplated, the person will have to fill in a means form. The income after allowances and any exceptional expenditure is divided by three to reach the disposable weekly income figure. This figure is then multiplied by the number of units to determine the fine.

Take an example of two youths equally to blame for an offence meriting ten units. One with an income of £2 a week will pay £20. The other, who receives £20 a week, will pay £200. It may be logical, sensible even, but I cannot see many of our offenders regarding it as fair.

One anomaly, however, may please the parents of those aged 14 to 16. At present, magistrates may ask parents to complete a means form. If they refuse, we have no power to compel them.

● The author is chairman of an inner London youth court.



BRIEF
PAULA DAVIES

THE TOLL IN HUMAN SUFFERING

Incident	Dead	Injured*
Manchester (1985)	53	15
Chinook (1986)	43	2
Herald of Free Enterprise (1987)	188	372
Piper Alpha (1988)	167	63
Pan Am (1988)	261	1
King's Cross (1988)	31	42
Clapham Junction (1989)	38	142
British Midland M1 (1989)	47	78
Marchioness (1989)	51	80
Hillsborough (1989)	95	400+
Super Puma (1992)	11	6
Total	1,003	1,198+

* The figures include those who suffered psychological injuries as a direct result of their involvement in the disaster

willful misconduct of the owner or operator. A further complication is that, if the ship or aircraft has any connection with the United States, a claimant may be able to persuade an American state or federal court that it has jurisdiction over a company other than the owner, somehow

type of case. The *Herald of Free Enterprise* claimants had no choice in the matter. There was no "US element" in that disaster, with the result that claimants were restricted in their rights of recovery to the limitation fund applying in the UK, where they were forced to pursue their claims.

was done in fraud trials. Mr Justice Saville said this was "direct oral evidence", avoiding the rule that hearsay is inadmissible in court.

Flying the flag
MOVES towards a single European currency may have run aground, but the European Community countries are still steaming ahead on a single flag for its merchant shipping. The flag's status will be a key issue at the European Maritime Law Organisation's annual conference this month. The organisation, coordinated by Philip Rutledge of Holman Fenwick & Willan, has become a successful forum for maritime lawyers from throughout the EC.

Suspects
SOME criminal law solicitors caused a stir in Bristol recently when they frequented one of the city's seedier nightclubs. The four, members of the Solicitors' Criminal Law Association, had in mind to "party on down" in clubland. This came to an abrupt halt when youngsters in the club assumed that the "oldies" were drug squad officers. Suddenly the lawyers found themselves in a 20ft exclusion zone as clubbers made for the door. The four left after ten minutes.

Witness on screen
CLYDE & Co, a London firm, claims a legal first that would dramatically cut the cost of international litigation. The firm persuaded the High Court that the evidence of a Hong Kong solicitor should be given by live video link, saving the client up to £10,000, as

Record rise in numbers

THE College of Law reports a 2.6 per cent rise in the number of students enrolling for the finals course, despite recession and redundancies among

young lawyers. The class of 93, with 4,197 students, is the biggest in the college's 30 years and probably the largest it will ever have. The college is

introducing its new skills-based legal practice course, taking a maximum of 3,450 students. After criticism that its selection methods discriminate against ethnic minorities, the college points out that the number of its ethnic minority students has risen by 2 per cent.

Equality call

THE Law Society's package of proposals last week to eradicate racism and sexism in the profession were well overdue. But what about the council itself taking a lead? Women are still badly represented, with five of the 74 council members, although they make up half of new entrants to the profession every year, and there are only two ethnic minority members.

Henry Hodge, the council member charged with promoting the equality proposals, is sympathetic, but he says that because most council members are elected by constituencies, and only 12 members are co-opted, the remedy is in the hands of the rank and file. More women, however, are coming forward as presidents and secretaries of local societies. What about the council setting a target, as it is advising firms to do?

Witness on screen
CLYDE & Co, a London firm, claims a legal first that would dramatically cut the cost of international litigation. The firm persuaded the High Court that the evidence of a Hong Kong solicitor should be given by live video link, saving the client up to £10,000, as

INNS AND OUTS

IS THE LAW MALE?

A TIMES/Dillons debate on women and their treatment by the British legal system will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday, October 29, at 7.15 pm. To attend the event, fill in the coupon below.

THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE

Please send me — invitation(s) at £10 (students & OAPs £5) each for the legal debate on October 29.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

I enclose my cheque made payable to Dillons the Bookstore

Value £ _____ Cheque number _____

(Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque)

Alternatively, please debit my Access/Visa card number or my Dillons/Hatchard account number

Expiry date _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Post coupon and remittance to: The Times / Dillons Legal Debate

Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ

To receive your tickets — £10 (students & OAPs £5) — please call today at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ (071-913 9602; fax 071-580 7680), or complete the coupon and post it to Dillons with your remittance.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Ticket number _____ Date sent _____

LONDON/HONG KONG/BUDAPEST

BANKING PARTNER £150-250,000

Medium-sized City firm with strong corporate and corporate finance profile seeks to enhance existing banking team through the acquisition of an additional partner, aged 30-40, awarded by the prospect of increasing his or her practice into an exceptionally well run, profitable and stable City environment.

RETAIL PARTNER £Negotiable

Medium-sized Holborn firm with busy and broadly based property department seeks additional partner, ideally aged 35-45 with proven client development and marketing skills and top flight retail property experience. Partial client following a pre-requisite.

BUDAPEST £Competitive

Business office of extremely successful international law firm acting for a range of Government, corporate and finance clients seeks a solicitor whose background encompasses joint venture, project finance, distribution and acquisition work. Excellent salary and benefits package in unique and challenging working environment.

HONG KONG £Expatriate

Small, extremely successful Hong Kong office of international practice requires top flight banking lawyer, ideally with 2-4 years' mainstream banking experience joined at a top tier City practice. 2-3 year overseas posting with excellent benefits package. The firm acts for a high profile portfolio of South East Asian corporates.

Jonathan Macrae and Jonathan Brenner are both solicitors with extensive recruitment experience. For further information on any of the vacancies listed above, or expert confidential career advice, please contact us on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

INSURANCE MIX

Successful, stable medium-sized City firm seeks solicitor with 2-4 years' commercial training who also possesses a grounding, and interest, in professional indemnity work. Position offers a genuine opportunity to combine mainstream commercial and specialist insurance litigation. Good salary and benefits package.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL £50-65,000

Medium-sized City firm with broadly based plc and private company client base seeks solicitor with 4-6 years' varied post-qualification experience, ideally including both general commercial and corporate finance for position with clear short term partnership prospects.

COMPANY/INSOLVENCY £City

Small London office of larger practices has new vacancy for City trained 0-2 year qualified solicitor interested in combining mainstream company/commercial and non-contentious insolvency work. Dynamic and enjoyable working environment. Early responsibility and excellent quality client base.

SENIOR PENSIONS To £70,000

Broadly based City practice with rapidly developing profile for its pensions expertise seeks another senior specialist, ideally 10-15 years qualified, for quality mix of transactional and fund advisory work. Unstressed but productive working environment.

ZARAK
MACRAE
BRENNER

ZMB

IN-HOUSE ROLES

There are a surprising number of opportunities available within the commercial world, but in these competitive times, your choice of recruitment adviser is crucial.

At Taylor Root, our "4 step" recruitment service offers you a comprehensive career programme. This comprises: career advice tailored to your aspirations; a job search service to match your requirements with potential and current opportunities; full information on all positions; and negotiation of your final job offer.

If you would like to find out more about our approach or the positions advertised, call us today. Please remember that the following are only a small portion of current opportunities.

INDUSTRY

OIL & GAS c. £60,000 + BENEFITS
LONDON — Oil company with a strong UK and growing international presence seeks lawyer with 3 to 6 years' oil and gas experience. Senior role with substantial liaison with external advisers and management responsibilities.

ENGINEERING c. £35,000 + CAR
HOME COUNTRIES — Profitable, UK owned, hi-tech company, seeks a company/commercial lawyer to handle a key legal role, involving commercial contracts and company secretarial work. UK, European Community and other international exposure.

INDUSTRIAL SERVICE c. £33,000 + CAR + BONUS
LONDON — Our client, a large worldwide industrial services group, seeks a legal adviser to handle U.K. and international contracts, corporate structuring, international finance, general commercial and company secretarial work.

Contact Gavin Burgess on 071-936 2565

Tel: 071-936 2565

Fax: 071-936 2463

Byg/Wdgs: 081-469 2213

TAYLOR & ROOT

LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

BANKS

NO. 1 ROLE To £60,000 + PACKAGE

LONDON — Our client, a well established European bank, seeks a Senior Assistant from Private Practice to establish an in-house legal function. High profile role with potential to move into mainstream banking.

NO. 2 ROLE c. £48,000 + BENEFITS

LONDON — A major international banking group seeks a Senior Legal Adviser to work as No. 2 in their mainstream legal department. Good first move from Private Practice offering exposure to broad ranging commercial banking work.

TRANSACTIONAL £40,000 to £80,000 PKGS.

LONDON — Three of our clients seek good Capital Markets Documentation and Negotiation lawyers to handle Bond, MTN, CP and other major issues work. All three banks are very profitable and offer high quality work, and good prospects.

DERIVATIVES £ EXCELLENT

LONDON — A top US bank seeks a lawyer with a Private Practice, Banking or Treasury background to handle SWAPS and other Derivative transactions. This is a senior role within the team and offers a very high level of remuneration.

CORPORATE FINANCE £35,000 PACKAGE

LONDON — At least four of our clients are currently recruiting Corporate Finance executives. Candidates will be qualified lawyers, newly to 2 years P.Q.E. and will possess excellent academic backgrounds and impeccable presentational skills.

F.S.A. COMPLIANCE £ EXCELLENT

LONDON — Our client, a highly profitable investment house, seeks a UK lawyer with broad ranging regulatory experience to work within their main legal group. Knowledge of the Stock Exchange, the S.F.A. and Takeover Panel Rules is essential.

Ludgate House
107 Fleet Street
London EC4A 3AB

US proceedings not vexatious

Barclays Bank plc v Hoeman and Others
Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Judgment October 8]

Proceedings in New York under section 547 of the United States Bankruptcy Code in relation to an insolvent English company were not vexatious or oppressive and accordingly the English administrators were not to be restrained from pursuing a claim in those proceedings on the ground of preference in respect of a payment made by the company shortly before it had presented insolvency petitions in the United States and England.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, dismissed an appeal by Barclays Bank plc from Mr Justice Hoffmann, who on July 28 had struck out their application for injunctions against administrators of Maxwell Communications Corporation plc (MCC). Mr Andrew Mark Hoeman, Mr Colin Graham Bird, Mr Jonathan, Guy Anthony Phillips and MCC.

Mr Nicholas Merriman, QC and Mr Ali Malek for Barclays; Mr John Higham, QC and Mr Robin Dicker for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that MCC, an English company, had been controlled by the late Mr Robert Maxwell. Its principal assets were in the United States, worth many times more than those outside it, which were estimated to be worth less than £100 million.

Barclays had branches in major cities of the United States. By October 1991, US\$30 million had been drawn by MCC against an overdraft facility at Barclays' Holborn branch. By then, it had been apparent to MCC's creditors that it was in severe financial difficulties. Mr Robert Maxwell had died on November 5.

In November, Barclays had corresponded with and spoken to Mr Kevin Maxwell about repayment. On November 26, after threatened action if it were not made, a payment had been made of the \$30 million with accrued interest from a National Westminster Bank plc dollar account in New York to Barclays in New York. It had been credited to pay off the overdraft account.

On December 16, MCC had filed a petition in the United States bankruptcy court in the Southern District of New York under chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code. On December 17, Maxwell had presented a petition to the High Court in England for an administration order. On December 20, Mr Justice Hoffmann had appointed the administrators. On the same day the bankruptcy judge in New York, Judge Brozman, had ordered the appointment of an examiner under section 1104 of the code.

The administrators and the examiner, subject to the respective jurisdictions of their courts, had carried on the administration of MCC in co-operation. On December 31, Mr Justice Hoffmann had authorised the administrators to consent to an order of the New York court to enable them to enter into an agreement with the examiner to harmonise their work. On January 15, 1992, Judge Brozman had made such an order. It had been expressed, *inter alia*, not to affect the High Court or the United States court under their respective laws.

The administrators, in consultation with the examiner, were engaged in formulating a scheme that it was hoped could be approved as a plan of re-organisation under chapter 11 of the US legislation and as a scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985.

By the definition in section 239(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 a company gave preference to a creditor if it did anything that had the effect of putting that creditor into a position better, in the event of the company's liquidation, than he would otherwise have been in.

Clearly, the repayment by MCC of the \$30 million fell within that definition. If the preference had been given within six months ending with the onset of insolvency, the court might order the position to be restored to what it would have been if the preference had not been given.

Section 239(5), however, made the subjective intention of the debtor company critical. "The court shall not make an order... unless the company... was influenced... by a desire to produce... the effect of putting the creditor in a better position."

Section 547 of the US code had much the same effect as section 239, but it contained nothing equivalent to subsection (5). The intention of the debtor company was irrelevant.

Barclays took the view that section 239(5) provided them with an argument that might render them not liable to repay the \$30 million as a preference under section 239 but that they were less likely to succeed in resisting a claim under section 547.

Judge Brozman, had ordered the appointment of an examiner under section 1104 of the code.

The administrators and the examiner, subject to the respective jurisdictions of their courts, had carried on the administration of MCC in co-operation. On December 31, Mr Justice Hoffmann had authorised the administrators to consent to an order of the New York court to enable them to enter into an agreement with the examiner to harmonise their work. On January 15, 1992, Judge Brozman had made such an order. It had been expressed, *inter alia*, not to affect the High Court or the United States court under their respective laws.

The administrators, in consultation with the examiner, were engaged in formulating a scheme that it was hoped could be approved as a plan of re-organisation under chapter 11 of the US legislation and as a scheme of arrangement under section 425 of the Companies Act 1985.

By the definition in section 239(4) of the Insolvency Act 1986 a company gave preference to a creditor if it did anything that had the effect of putting that creditor into a position better, in the event of the company's liquidation, than he would otherwise have been in.

Clearly, the repayment by MCC of the \$30 million fell within that definition. If the preference had been given within six months ending with the onset of insolvency, the court might order the position to be restored to what it would have been if the preference had not been given.

Section 239(5), however, made the subjective intention of the debtor company critical. "The court shall not make an order... unless the company... was influenced... by a desire to produce... the effect of putting the creditor in a better position."

Section 547 of the US code had much the same effect as section 239, but it contained nothing equivalent to subsection (5). The intention of the debtor company was irrelevant.

Barclays took the view that section 239(5) provided them with an argument that might render them not liable to repay the \$30 million as a preference under section 239 but that they were less likely to succeed in resisting a claim under section 547.

On July 6, 1992, Mr Justice Millett had granted Barclays, *ex parte*, an interim injunction restraining the respondents from *inter alia*, making a claim against Barclays for return of the payment in the US proceedings or applying in the US proceedings for an order restraining Barclays from pursuing their claims in that application.

On an *inter partes* hearing, Mr Justice Hoffmann had struck out Barclays' application.

The English courts had for many years asserted a jurisdiction to issue an injunction ordering a plaintiff not to commence or pursue proceedings in a foreign court when he had brought or could properly bring his action in the English courts.

In recent years the considerable growth in the extent to which commercial and industrial concerns traded in more than one country, and the vast increase in international travel, had created conditions in which it was less uncommon than formerly, although still rare, for it to be possible to commence an action based on the same facts in two or more jurisdictions.

It was therefore not surprising that in the past dozen years there had been a series of decisions in the English courts in which the principles to be applied to an application for an injunction had been formulated, developed and explained.

It was clear that the principles to be applied in the present case were in the judgment of the Privy Council, delivered by Lord Goff of Chieveley, in *SNL Aerospaciale v Lee Kui Jak* [1987] AC 871.

Although Lord Goff had made it clear that the principles to be applied to an application for an injunction to prevent a plaintiff from proceeding in a foreign jurisdiction were not the same as those to be applied to a stay of English proceedings, he had nevertheless accepted that the problem in the former case might be resolved by the foreign court applying the principle of *forum non conveniens*.

In his Lordship's view, in relation to the circumstances of the present case, the principles to be derived from *Aerospaciale* could be summarised: 1 If the only issue was whether an English or a foreign court was the more appropriate forum for the trial of an action, that question should normally be decided by the foreign court on the principle of *forum non conveniens* and the English court should not seek to interfere with that decision.

2 However, if, exceptionally, the English court concluded that the pursuit of the action in the foreign court would be vexatious and oppressive in that the English court was the natural forum, that is, the more appropriate forum for the trial of the action, it could properly grant an injunction preventing the plaintiff from pursuing his foreign action.

3 In deciding whether the action in the foreign court was vexatious and oppressive, account had to be taken of the possible injustice to the defendant if the injunction were not granted and the possible injustice to the plaintiff if it was.

In other words, the English court had to seek to strike a balance.

Mr Merriman said that Mr Justice Hoffmann had been at fault in saying that the normal assumption was that it was for the foreign judge to decide whether to accept jurisdiction in his court rather than for an English judge to decide that he should not. But the judge had already made it clear that, in an exceptional case where the proceedings were vexatious or oppressive, an injunction could properly be granted.

Thus his reference to the normal assumption could only be read as a reference to the principle that, where the foreign proceedings were not vexatious or oppressive, it was *prima facie* for the foreign court to decide whether or not it was the appropriate forum for the trial of the action.

His Lordship also agreed with the judge that the facts of the present case were to be distinguished from those of *Midland Bank plc v Laker Airways Ltd* [1986] QB 689.

Mr Merriman argued that, because Barclays were or might be at a disadvantage under section 547 of the US code as compared with their position under section 239, that of itself made the American proceedings oppressive or vexatious. His Lordship did not accept that.

The English authorities required the disadvantage to Barclays to be balanced against the advantage to the administrators or examiner.

It was true that American law differed from English law in that respect but there was nothing inherently oppressive about the difference.

The judge had directed himself correctly in law and adopted a perfectly proper approach. In essence, he had had to decide whether the New York proceedings were, or would be, vexatious or oppressive.

He had not in terms said that he found that they were not, but that was the effect of his decision.

Lord Justice Leggatt delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: Richards Butler, Norton Rose.

Mr Justice Hoffmann had said: "It seems to me... that an injunction... could serve no purpose except to antagonise the United States court and prejudice the co-operation which has thus far prevailed between the chapter 11 and the English administration."

"If she does think so, she will not be deflected from securing the prosecution of that claim by any injunction I may make."

Mr Merriman said that Mr Justice Hoffmann had been at fault in saying that the normal assumption was that it was for the foreign judge to decide whether to accept jurisdiction in his court rather than for an English judge to decide that he should not. But the judge had already made it clear that, in an exceptional case where the proceedings were vexatious or oppressive, an injunction could properly be granted.

Thus his reference to the normal assumption could only be read as a reference to the principle that, where the foreign proceedings were not vexatious or oppressive, it was *prima facie* for the foreign court to decide whether or not it was the appropriate forum for the trial of the action.

His Lordship also agreed with the judge that the facts of the present case were to be distinguished from those of *Midland Bank plc v Laker Airways Ltd* [1986] QB 689.

Mr Merriman argued that, because Barclays were or might be at a disadvantage under section 547 of the US code as compared with their position under section 239, that of itself made the American proceedings oppressive or vexatious. His Lordship did not accept that.

The English authorities required the disadvantage to Barclays to be balanced against the advantage to the administrators or examiner.

It was true that American law differed from English law in that respect but there was nothing inherently oppressive about the difference.

The judge had directed himself correctly in law and adopted a perfectly proper approach. In essence, he had had to decide whether the New York proceedings were, or would be, vexatious or oppressive.

He had not in terms said that he found that they were not, but that was the effect of his decision.

Lord Justice Leggatt delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: Richards Butler, Norton Rose.

Mr Justice Hoffmann had said: "It seems to me... that an injunction... could serve no purpose except to antagonise the United States court and prejudice the co-operation which has thus far prevailed between the chapter 11 and the English administration."

"If she does think so, she will not be deflected from securing the prosecution of that claim by any injunction I may make."

Mr Merriman said that Mr Justice Hoffmann had been at fault in saying that the normal assumption was that it was for the foreign judge to decide whether to accept jurisdiction in his court rather than for an English judge to decide that he should not. But the judge had already made it clear that, in an exceptional case where the proceedings were vexatious or oppressive, an injunction could properly be granted.

Thus his reference to the normal assumption could only be read as a reference to the principle that, where the foreign proceedings were not vexatious or oppressive, it was *prima facie* for the foreign court to decide whether or not it was the appropriate forum for the trial of the action.

His Lordship also agreed with the judge that the facts of the present case were to be distinguished from those of *Midland Bank plc v Laker Airways Ltd* [1986] QB 689.

Mr Merriman argued that, because Barclays were or might be at a disadvantage under section 547 of the US code as compared with their position under section 239, that of itself made the American proceedings oppressive or vexatious. His Lordship did not accept that.

The English authorities required the disadvantage to Barclays to be balanced against the advantage to the administrators or examiner.

School employment transferred

Pickwell and Another v Lincolnshire County Council
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr S. Corby and Mr R. H. Phipps
[Judgment October 6]

The contract of employment of a catering assistant employed at a school previously maintained by the county council but which had acquired direct grant maintained status under the Education Reform Act 1988 did not terminate by reason of section 93(1) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 at the time of the change to grant maintained status and section 75 of the 1988 Act applied to effect a transfer of the employment to the governing body of the school.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal on appeal by Ms M. Thomas and Mrs S. Pickwell, kitchen assistant and cook at St George's County Secondary School, Sleaford, from a decision of a Nottingham Industrial Tribunal last January granting the two women redundancy payments to be paid by the county council.

Section 93 of the 1978 Act provides: "(1) Where in accordance with any enactment or rule of law any act or the part of an employee, or (2) any event affecting an employer (including, in the case of an individual, his death), operates so as to terminate a contract under which an employee is employed by him, that act or event shall... be treated as a termination of the contract."

Miss Vivienne Gay for the applicants; Mr R. F. Owen for the county council; Mr J. Hodgson, headmaster, in person for the governing body.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that during the early part of 1990 the board of governors had applied for direct grant maintained status under the 1988 Act. That was confirmed in November and the transfer took place on January 1991.

A decision had been made by the prospective governors that thereafter the catering should be contracted out to a catering firm. Ms Thomas entered into a contract to start work for them immediately but Mrs Pickwell chose to opt for early retirement or redundancy.

On the applicant's claims for redundancy payments, the industrial tribunal found that the liability of the county council for its employees had ceased from December 31, 1990 and that the county council had done nothing to terminate the applicants' contracts of employment.

Section 75 of the 1988 Act made provision for the transfer of staff to a grant maintained school and it was clear that the intention was that a contract of employment should span the incidence of transfer and be itself transferred so that the governors stepped into the shoes of the county council.

The exception to the application of section 75 was in subsection (3)(a) which provided section 75 did not apply to any person whose contract of employment terminated on the date immediately preceding the transfer.

The industrial tribunal decided that section 93(1) of the 1978 Act operated so as to terminate Ms Thomas's contract.

But that envisaged activities such as insolvency or death where a contract of employment came to an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

an end independently of the parties involved.

The industrial tribunal's reasoning was wrong and there was clearly a transfer in Ms Thomas's case.

The position in Mrs Pickwell's case was not so clear on the facts and the correct course would be to remit all further matters to an industrial tribunal for reconsideration.

The appeal tribunal members were troubled by the circumstances of the case which were unlikely to be unique.

It seemed unfair that the governors of a grant maintained school whose budget was limited should have to make redundancy payments to staff who for 20 years or more had given faithful service to the county council.

It was an essential lesson from the case that all governors in similar circumstances should take professional advice and enter into discussion with local authorities before the transfer date.

Solicitors: Robin Thompson & Partners, Nottingham; Mr P. J. Burns, Lincoln.

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 9313
071-782 7828

LONDON

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
To Partnership
Top quality practice seeks intellectual property lawyer with a broad range of contentious and non-contentious IP including patents, trademarks, IT and computer law. Good academic qualifications and science background an advantage. Ref T8999

IT/COMPUTER LAW
To £60,000
Senior computer/IT lawyer with contentious experience and, ideally, in-house background sought by strong medium-sized practice to complement existing department of legal and other specialists. Excellent client base therefore following welcome but not necessary. Ref T10085

INSOLVENCY
To £40,000
Contentious insolvency lawyer sought by Central London practice with between 2 and 4 years' relevant post to join firm expanding in this area; position offers an excellent opportunity for a long term career within a thriving department and a forward thinking law firm. Ref T6498

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact: Deborah Dingley or Jane Mearns (both advising on 071-408 6662) (081-529 6559 evening/weekend) or write to them at Quarry Dingley Recruitment, 7 Broadview Street, London WC1V 6PL. Confidential Ref: 071-831 6394.

QD

CLARENCE DOUGLAS

UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA • USA

BANKING AND COMMERCIAL
LAWYER - RIYADH

Baker & McKenzie's Riyadh office requires a solicitor with between three and six years post-qualification experience in banking and finance as well as general corporate and commercial work, preferably with a major London firm. He will have an opportunity to play a leading role in our rapidly expanding banking and finance and corporate practices in Saudi Arabia, advising banks, Government agencies as well as domestic and international companies on project financings as well as a range of other banking and finance and corporate transactions.

The successful applicant would be someone who has a sense of

adventure and a willingness to live in Riyadh for at least three years. He must be capable of taking initiative and assuming a very substantial degree of responsibility. An ability to speak and/or write in Arabic is preferred but not an absolute requirement.

Our Riyadh office offers excellent prospects and an attractive salary in an exciting and stimulating environment. Initial interviews will be conducted in London.

Please send applications in writing with full Curriculum Vitae to: Mrs Jo Darby, Baker & McKenzie, 100 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6JA.

BAKER & MCKENZIE

CHIEF

OFFICER

(DESIGNATE)

CIRCA £50,000



The public defender system is the American way. James Morton interviews Rita Fry

Is this the answer for legal aid?

Contracts and fixed fees for legal-aid lawyers could result in increasing numbers dropping out of the scheme. What, then, are the chances of a public defender system in England and Wales?

The idea is well established in the United States. Rita Fry, who runs one of the largest practices in Illinois with six million potential clients, is the Cook County public defender. She is only the second ethnic minority member to hold the position and the first woman.

"I am responsible for 508 lawyers handling 225,000 cases annually for indigent defendants," she says. "We take everything from driving under the influence to misdemeanours — battery and theft through felony to death penalty cases, appeals, post-trial petitions and mental health hearings. We do almost everything in the system where people may lose their liberty. The ratio of male to female is about 55-45 per cent, including lawyers, support staff and investigators."

Lawyers stay for seven to ten years and move on to private practice, but Ms Fry is trying to change this. "I am pushing that this be regarded as a career office," she says. "It is a full-time position and people cannot be in private practice on the side. Those who handle only appeals are expected to undertake at least 16 a year, except those who deal in the death penalty cases, who need take only eight."

To be in felony court you have to be qualified for at least three and preferably five years. The homicide task force of 28 are the highest paid at \$47,000 (about £27,000) a year. The starting salary is \$28,600. Ms Fry's salary is \$90,000, plus a car.

New recruits have a month's training, including a mock trial and a police ride-along — "going out on a shift in a patrol car to see what officers do". They have training in cross-examination and lecture by expert witnesses on ballistics and other forensic issues.

Most lawyers are white and there will therefore be a visit to public housing "so they have a sense of what that means".

Ms Fry feels there is a crisis in criminal justice, particularly in juvenile work. She explains: "We have always represented the working core and now the financially strapped middle classes in the north of the county. We are getting more white clients. In the western suburbs we represent the blacks and Hispanics who used to work in shops and factories. The south is turning into another crisis area. There are not enough lawyers to handle cases."

"I am planning a seminar to talk about how we can get the private Bar involved. We need help on caseloads. There is a scheme in Atlanta in which lawyers will undertake to accept up to ten indigent cases a year. I should like to see that replicated here. The private Bar has the credibility and the influence to come in and say change is needed. I want to see assigned counsel so that we can contract out of civil and misdemeanour work."

She would like changes in the way cases are handled. "The courts work a vertical system whereby the trial lawyer will pick up the case only on arraignment," she says. "A defendant will have had his case handled by two or three lawyers before he gets to the person who will defend him. I want to change to a horizontal system where the first lawyer involved picks up the case and keeps it."

She is adamant about the potential conflict between the court and her office. "The role of the defence attorney is not to expedite court hearings or aid in managing court business," she says. "The first obligation is to the client. The presiding judge and I have a philosophical difference at present. I believe the client's rights and



Rita Fry: "It is uncivilised in a civilised world if the accused is not properly represented"

interests come first." At present, most of the new lawyers are white and Ms Fry would like to see more recruited from the minorities.

"The trouble is the salary is low," she complains. "If you have some way of subsidising your income you may be able to make the sacrifice but by and large ethnic minority

students have not." She is committed to ensuring the poor are properly represented.

"Defence services in this country have to be taken seriously and not seen, as the stepchildren of the system," she says. "We must come out of the shadows. The fact that people have no money should not

prevent them from having counsel. If the accused is being prosecuted by an attorney who knows the system and the accused does not have an equal to represent him, he is not going to get a fair trial. In a civilised world this is uncivilised."

● The author is the editor of New Law Journal

Problems in view for videos

The new rules for court evidence by children could defeat their own object

The Criminal Justice Act 1991, which came in two weeks ago, has brought a new concept into our criminal trial. Where violence, cruelty and sexual misconduct towards children are alleged, a video recording of the child's evidence will partly replace the child's live testimony in court. The court can substitute examination in chief by the prosecution with questioning of the child on video by police officers and social workers at an early stage in the investigation.

The idea is excellent: to relieve a child of having to give evidence in court, while safeguarding a defendant's rights. The provisions, however, may cause several problems. First, there is the practical question of whether the child will watch the video before being cross-examined. If the child sees the video to refresh his or her memory, or when it is played for the jury, much of the object of avoiding the prosecutor's questioning is removed, as the child will have to relive the experience. Yet if the child does not see the video before cross-examination, he or she may find it hard to recall the evidence. The jury, in turn, will find it difficult to decide whether any resulting inconsistencies arise from the child's memory loss or lies. On balance, therefore, the child must be allowed to see the video before cross-examination.

A second problem is that the video is generally admissible only where the child is available for live cross-examination. If there are several child witnesses who are cross-examined and the last child refuses to answer questions after the playing of the video, the judge must decide whether to discharge the jury and oblige children who have given evidence to face the ordeal of a retrial, or to allow the case to go on with the real risk of a miscarriage of justice.

The removal of committal proceedings in allegations of violence and sexual abuse of children, though intended to reduce the number of a child's court appear-

ances, may compound this problem, because it will be hard to assess how the child will withstand the rigours of a court appearance.

The Act does, however, allow witness statements to be read if the witnesses are unavailable or will not give evidence through fear. If a child comes within these provisions, the Act appears to allow the video to be played without subsequent cross-examination. The court may find it hard to decide whether the child is afraid of the defendant or the court proceedings.

The viewing of oral testimony in the absence of cross-examination would also have a more profound and misleading effect on a jury than the reading of witness statements.

Such evidence should be admitted with extreme caution. Finally, a matter of concern for the Bar and perhaps the judiciary, is that the legal-aid authorities are unwilling to pay for transcripts of the video to be made for the defence. This is to discourage the dissemination of material that might be misused as pornography.

However, cross-examination of a child and preparation of the defence case will be difficult without reference to an agreed record of the video's contents. Lack of such a record could also create havoc in the courtroom as the video would have to be replayed to resolve disputes as to prior testimony.

The assumption that a jury can form a complete impression of a child witness who gives live evidence solely under cross-examination is yet to be tested. Questioning by police officers and social workers on the recording is bound to contrast with courtroom cross-examination by a trained advocate. It will require an objective analysis of the child's evidence by the jury to ensure justice is done.

Let us hope the testing problems envisaged are not ones that will require fillings or extraction.

STEPHEN LESLIE

● The author is a practising barrister.

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

INSOLVENCY PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL

Undoubtedly recognised as one of the leading, established provincial firms, our client has a substantial corporate and commercial practice acting for an impressive client portfolio.

The firm continues to expand across the board but the widely respected Banking/Insolvency Group is predicted to become one of the most important and high-profile departments. Two further assistants are required with 3-4 years' pge to handle a contentious and non-contentious caseload covering the full range of corporate insolvency and contentious banking matters.

These positions are only available to those who possess the technical and interpersonal qualities to make a genuine addition to the department and to the firm. Although preference will be given to those with insolvency experience, applications are invited from candidates with more general commercial litigation backgrounds. The ability to work as part of a team, self-motivation and a commercial attitude are essential.

For further information interested applicants should contact Paul Mulcock on 061-831 7127 (Fax 061-832 9123) or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd, Recruitment Consultants, Amethyst House, Spring Gardens, Manchester M2 1EA.

NORTH

AGE 26-32

**REUTER
SIMKIN**

REUTER SIMKIN IS A DIVISION OF THE PSD GROUP

TRADE MARKS/IP £35,000 - £50,000 City

A major City law firm uniquely combining the full range of trade mark agency services with the specialist skills of experienced trade mark lawyers. Interested? Read on.

Trade mark strategy and tactics are integral to the successful expansion of all businesses within both domestic and international markets. Our Client has developed an enviable reputation amongst City commercial practices by adopting an entrepreneurial approach to solving client problems; this is fully illustrated within its fast growing, innovative IP practice. A market leader, it seeks an additional lawyer or trade mark professional, preferably with 2-4 years' trade mark experience, to join a rapidly expanding team.

The trade mark unit, supported internally by other lawyers specialising in EC, copyright and patent activities, and worldwide by a network of trade mark specialists, is exceptional. It provides the full range of relevant services, including maintenance/surveillance programmes, defence/enforcement activities and commercial initiatives in licensing, franchising and joint ventures.

This is a unique opportunity to develop a trade marks career with a firm which looks at this speciality in a comprehensive and dynamic way.

A sound commercial acumen will be combined with an enthusiasm to initiate and participate in the lateral extension of trade mark activities, leading to the further development of the practice.

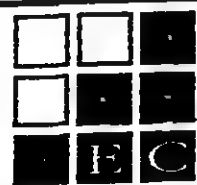
The position will place the candidate on a partnership track and the financial rewards will be outstanding, reflecting not only the calibre of the candidate sought but also the importance of the trade mark unit within the firm.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gareth Quarry or Stephen Rodney on 071-405 6062 (071-354 3079 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglas Recruitment, 9 Broomfield Street, London WC1V 6JD. Confidential fax: 071-831 6394.

QD
QUARRY DOUGALL

UNITED KINGDOM · HONG KONG · NEW ZEALAND · AUSTRALIA · USA

3 ESSEX COURT CHAMBERS
are pleased to announce that
Lord Donaldson of Lymington
has returned to chambers to practise as an arbitrator.
Contact should be made through the Senior clerk
Neil Palmer on 071 583 9294



ENTERPRISE CHAMBERS
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn WC2A 3SR
14 Park Place, Leeds, LS1 2SJ

are pleased to announce that Charles Morgan (called in 1978), formerly of Trinity Chambers, Newcastle, and James Pickering (called in 1991) joined chambers with effect from 1 October 1992. Charles Morgan will be practising from our Leeds branch, and James Pickering from London.

Members of Chambers are:
Benjamin Levy, Anthony Mann QC, Timothy Jennings, David Halpern, Charles Morgan, Caroline Hutton, Teresa Ross Pennoche, Linden W. Ann McAllister, Peter Arden, Geoffrey Zella, Leslie Michaelson, Jacqueline Baker, James Barker, Hugo Groves, Nicholas Caple, Laura Rodriguez-Garcia, Zia Shaloo, James Pickering.

Senior Clerk: Barry Clayton
Tel 071-405 9471 - Fax 071-242 1447 - LDB 301
Leeds Clerk: Carol Shaw
Tel 0532 460391 - Fax 0532 426802 - DX 26448
(Leeds Park Square)

TO PLACE AN
ADVERTISEMENT IN THE
LEGAL APPOINTMENTS
SECTION PLEASE
TELEPHONE 071 481 4481
x 285 AND SPEAK TO
KAREN JONES OR FAX ON
071 481 9313

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 9313
071-782 7828

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

C\$45,000

Major international city firm with blue-chip client base seeks commercial litigator with 1-3 years' post qualification experience. The case load will consist of a diverse range of high profile general commercial litigation including fraud, defamation, insolvency and international trade. Excellent academic background is essential. Leading city salary.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

C\$45,000

Insurance litigator with 1-3 years' relevant experience is sought by prestigious city firm for its highly successful litigation department. Acting on behalf of a wide range of high profile intermediaries and professionals in the insurance market, work will encompass a challenging combination of professional indemnity work. Excellent long term prospects.

BANKING

C\$55,000

Prestigious and medium-sized city practice seeks an experienced solicitor/barrister ideally 2-4 years' qualified to undertake a combination of international banking work. Matters will encompass international trade and project finance, bond and note issues and capital market transactions. Ideal opportunity to gain first class experience and immediate responsibility.

Simon Hanley and Deborah Kirkman are experienced consultants with considerable recruitment expertise in both private practice and commerce & industry. For further information of these and other opportunities, please call either of them in complete confidence on 071-379 333 (fax 071 915 8714). Alternatively, write to them at 25 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9AP.

ROBERT WALTERS ASSOCIATES

LONDON WINDSOR BIRMINGHAM BRUSSELS AMSTERDAM PARIS

INDUSTRY PRACTICE

INTERNATIONAL COUNSEL

Package To £100,000

An exceptional opportunity exists for a senior commercial/intellectual property lawyer to head an established legal team for a manufacturing company. Applicants must have at least 5 years' international commercial experience including acquisitions, anti-trust, trademark protection and licensing.

Henry Broad LL.B.

Ref: 14582

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Private-Client Tax c£35,000

Our client is a successful City firm fully committed to private-client work. This means an opportunity for someone qualified 1-3 years to specialise in much the better kind of tax and equity work. High intellectual standards and the desire to take responsibility are essential.

Philip Boynton LL.M.

Ref: 15053

INDUSTRY

Legal Assistant c£35,000

A dynamic leader in its sector, our client is a major international corporation with its Group Head Office based in the City. The Legal Department now requires an additional assistant solicitor, 1-2 years qualified, to undertake an exciting range of company, commercial and related work.

Philip Boynton LL.M.

Ref: 15041

ENTERTAINMENTS PARTNER

£Competitive

Our client, a rapidly expanding law firm that has consistently maintained growth throughout the recession, is seeking to appoint an entertainment specialist to join the thriving Intellectual Property Department. The ability to demonstrate a following is preferable but not essential.

Claire Hise LL.B.

Ref: 14981

IN-HOUSE BANKING

£35,000 - £70,000

Interesting opportunities exist for lawyers wanting to move from private practice to positions within banks. We have been instructed by financial institutions recruiting for in-house positions, both legal and commercial. Candidates will need to have at least 1 year's experience in banking and financial markets.

Jayne Cox LL.B.

Ref: 14700

PERSONAL INJURY

To £30,000

This well-established law firm based in the House of Commons currently has an opportunity for a solicitor with at least one year's experience to join the expanding Litigation Department. The candidate will be primarily personal injury but may also include an element of matrimonial and contract law.

Claire Hise LL.B.

Ref: 14580

Reuter Simkin Ltd, Recruitment Consultants

5 Bream's Buildings

Chancery Lane

London EC4A 1DY.

Tel: 071-405 4161 Fax: 071-405 3677

REUTER SIMKIN IS A DIVISION OF THE PSD GROUP

REUTER
SIMKIN

Chambers

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS: PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

LONDON
Tel: (071) 605 9371
74 Long Lane
London EC1A 4ET
(Fax: 071-600 1793)MANCHESTER
Tel: (061) 228 2122
53 Prince St
Manchester M2 4EQ
(Fax: 061-228 2213)

Notice Periods

Negotiating the notice period in a new contract of employment never used to be a problem. In recent weeks, however, there have been several instances in which offers of employment have actually foundered on the question of notice.

Usually it is the candidate who prefers the longer notice period. In special cases, it may be the employer. A small London firm, for instance, which solicitors seem to leave with alarming frequency, is now trying to retain its staff by introducing a 2-year notice period, attended by various penalties for early leaving. This novel approach may work if willingly accepted. Unfortunately, the effect so far has been that two candidates in succession have turned their offers down.

Michael Chambers

For vacancies in INDUSTRY & BANKING ring Sonya Royner.

Banking: City

Solicitor with c3 yrs' banking experience to join expanding legal dept of international bank. Work will include project finance, corporate lending, and retail banking.

Commercial Lawyer: Africa

Solicitor with c10 yrs' international co-occurance experience to join conglomerate with interests including banking & property. Excellent remuneration package reflects importance of position.

Partnership Positions...

We have been advising partners on career development for nearly 20 years, and understand their requirements. We also appreciate the importance of total confidentiality.

Property Lawyer: Central London

Newly-created post (reporting to the chairman of successful investment co) for commercial property lawyer with at least 5 yrs' experience. Your work will include financing and marketing.

Commercial Property: North of England

Commercial property lawyer to join legal dept of well-known manufacturing co. You should have 2-3 yrs' property experience and also some company commercial experience.

Group Legal Adviser: Central London

Solicitor or barrister, 3 yrs' qual, to join UK head office of international hi-tech co. Expert of information technology & computer law plus admin skills to coordinate legal function.

PRIVATE PRACTICE: LONDON & PROVINCES

London: David Jammy; David Woodhouse. South: Helen Mills. Midlands: Lauren Codrington. North: Alison Diamond.

Property Litigation: City

Innovative firm going from strength to strength seeks 2-3 yr qual property litigator to handle increasing work generated by property dept.

Non-contentious Construction: City

Leading medium-sized City firm inundated with instructions seeks 2-5 yrs qual construction solicitor for wide range of non-contentious work.

Insurance/Construction: Central London

Medium-sized firm with strong insurance reputation seeks 2 yr qual litigator to handle construction-related disputes for leading insurance companies.

Non-contentious Insolvency: City

Med-sized firm seeks 2-4 yrs qual solicitor (or senior solicitor with following) for driving dept handling receiverships, liquidations, and reconstructions.

Shipping Litigation: Central London

Niche international practice, generally regarded as 'up & coming', has opportunity for shipping litigator with connections to join as partner.

Corporate Partner: Holborn

Niche 'boutique' firm with unusually broad international practice seeks additional partner with clientele for expanding corporate dept.

Corporate Lawyer: Covent

Expanding firm seeks enterprising solicitor with co-occurance background to handle work for major clients.

Corporate Law: Leeds

Top firm seeks two solicitors, 1-3 yrs qual, for main-stream company, M&A, & comp finance work.

Construction: Avon

3-5 yrs qual solicitor urgently sought by prominent firm. All aspects of work: litigation bias.

Commercial Property: West Midlands

Junior property solicitor for co-occurance firm acting for developers, housing assoc, local authorities.

Intellectual Property: Oxon

Successful practice seeks high-calibre lawyer (solicitor/barrister) with commercial & IP background.



INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

Our client, EUROTUNNEL, responsible for one of the most important projects in Europe, providing transport services between the UK and Continental Europe, is looking for an additional lawyer to join its small, high profile legal team. The position would be most suited to a lawyer with industry or commercial experience, used to handling significant contracts.

Working for Eurotunnel's transportation division, operating under the name "Le Shuttle", and located in Calais, France, the successful candidate will be responsible for providing legal input on a wide range of operational and commercial matters, including the drafting and negotiating of contracts.

Qualified in either Britain or France and aged late 20s/early 30s, you will be totally bilingual, and possess the individualism, innovation, enthusiasm and communicative skills required to grasp this unique opportunity.

An attractive salary is offered and career development possibilities are excellent.

Please send applications (CV and handwritten letter, with photo and indication of your remuneration) to: Mrs Léonore HEEMSKERK
Réf: 2813 TI - ARGOS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING
BP 1049 - 59701 Marcq en Baroeul Cedex - France

BERNARD JULHIET
CONSEIL ET DEVELOPPEMENT

Company Commercial Solicitor

Central London Up to £37,000

London Electricity has undergone a rapid transformation, becoming one of the UK's most dynamic, commercially-minded and forward-thinking energy companies as a result.

As an agent of change, our legal department has played a significant part in the developments which have turned London Electricity into a £1.3 billion turnover organisation. To help us respond to new challenges in this customer-oriented enterprise, we are now looking to appoint a Solicitor to deal with a broad range of company acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures and commercial contracts as well as to handle tendering and building contract work.

Whilst you will report to the Legal Services Manager, you will be expected to exercise a considerable amount of personal responsibility and initiative in providing a highly professional service to your internal client-base.

Along with at least 5 years' post-qualification experience, you should have worked within a medium-sized commercially-oriented practice or a large plc, where you will have acquired the business flair to complement your legal expertise. The legal department itself has a distinctly commercial culture, so you will need to be someone who can operate successfully within a democratic, frequently pressurised environment.

The excellent salary is supported by a comprehensive benefits package. To apply, please write with full C.V. to Sue Adams, Personnel Division, London Electricity plc, Temple House, 81/87 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NU. Closing date: 26th October 1992.

Committed to Equal Opportunities.

LONDON
ELECTRICITY

Solicitor

TOWN CLERKS DEPARTMENT
Up to £23,314 p.a.

Modern Local Government calls for a customer-orientated approach to the provision of a broad range of services.

We are now looking for a qualified Solicitor, with a proven understanding of the value of pro-active professional approach.

As well as providing a full executive and advisory legal service to departments throughout the Council, you will also be acting as legal adviser, providing the whole range of professional support to the Council's committees.

Ideally you will have Local Government experience but this is not as important as a working knowledge of planning law and procedure.

As a member of our small, expert team you will need to demonstrate excellent communication skills and a diplomatic approach to your work, when dealing with a wide range of clients.

In return you can look forward to a range of benefits including a valuable relocation package to help you move to this attractive part of the country.

If you would like to find out more, please call Graham White on (0206) 712201 for an informal discussion.

Application forms and further details are available from Personnel Services, Colchester Borough Council, Town Hall, High Street, Colchester CO1 1FR. Alternatively call our 24-hour recruitment line on Colchester (0206) 764023. Please quote post number TL03 when applying.

Closing date: 30th October 1992.



COLCHESTER

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

MISSING PERSONS

The News of the World can offer a unique service in contacting missing persons/ beneficiaries.

An advertisement in the "Unclaimed Money" or "Missing Persons" category of the News of the World is read by over 12.6 million people*.

The News of the World Categories are charged at just £22 per line + VAT.

All advertisements should be accompanied by a solicitor's letter

071 481 9993

NEWS
OF THE
WORLD

*Source NRS July 92

DIARY
OF
TIMES CLASSIFIED
TELEPHONE:
071-481 4000

The Times Classified columns are read by well over a million of the most affluent people in the country. The following categories appear regularly and are generally accompanied by relevant editorial articles. Use the coupon (right), and find out how easy, fast and economical it is to advertise in The Times Classified.

THE WORLD FAMOUS PERSONAL COLUMN, INCLUDING RENTALS, APPEARS EVERY DAY.

MONDAY
Education: University Appointments, Prep & Public School Appointments, Educational Courses, Scholarships and Fellowships with editorial.
La Crème de la Crème: Secretarial Appointments.

TUESDAY
Legal Appointments: Solicitors, Commercial Lawyers, Legal Officers, Private & Public Practice with editorial.
Public Appointments: Creative & Media Appointments.

WEDNESDAY
La Crème de la Crème: Secretarial Appointments: Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, Commercial Property: with editorial.

THURSDAY
General Appointments: Management, Engineering, Science & Technology, with editorial.
Actuaries & Finance.
La Crème de la Crème: Secretarial Appointments.

FRIDAY
International Appointments: Overseas Opportunities. Notice: The complete car buyer's guide with editorial.
Business to Business: Business opportunities.

SATURDAY
WEEKEND TIMES
Shoppers: shopping from the comfort of your own home.

Saturday Breakfast: The place to expand your social circle.

Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals.
Gardening.
Sales: Arts and Antiques (monthly).
SATURDAY REVIEW
Overseas Holidays.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £3.50 per line (min. 3 lines, only first word in bold); Bored Display £30 per single column (min. 3 columns); Court & Social £10 per line. Saturday Review Colour £30 per single column. All rates are subject to 17.5% VAT. Send Monday to Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm. Saturday, late evening 7.30pm on Sat. P.O. Box 494, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

Name _____
Address _____
Telephone (Daytime) _____
Date of insertion _____
(Please allow three working days prior to insertion date.)
USE YOUR CREDIT CARD _____
Reply Date _____

England B selection offers taste of future

Ubogu has ability to flourish

South Africa's selection policy in disarray

Bracknell buck the trend towards goals galore

Unbeaten Dolphins all alone

Snow is set to cause the fall of champions

pect, the Briton looks capable of an upset.

Montendre can underline quality of Diadem form

MONTENDRE, a creditable third to Wolfhound and Lochsong in the Diadem Stakes at Ascot last month, can win the Lester Pigott All-Aged Stakes at Chepstow this afternoon.

The form of that Ascot race is solid by any standard. Wolfhound, an improving sprinter, went on to land the group one Prix de la Forêt at Longchamps on Sunday, while Lochsong has been in spectacular form this autumn, collecting the Portland Handicap and Ayr Gold Cup.

Although Montendre has won only once this season, a listed race at Newbury in July, that race has a strong bearing on today's contest. He beat Notley by three-quarters of a length and, as Notley recovers here on the same terms, the form book suggests Montendre should once more have his measure.

Notley was in good fettle early in the season but rather lost his way after his second to Montendre. He did, however, return to his best when beating Harvest Girl by a neck in a listed race at Doncaster last time.

The question is whether he can reproduce that form. He was blundered for the first time, and there is no guarantee that they will be as effective this time.

Jack Berry provides the other two runners, Flyde Flyer and Sizzling Saga. Both will have to improve to be the principals, but the presence of jockey John Carroll on Sizzling Saga suggests, he is the better fancied.

However, for the nap I turn to Scales of Justice in the Gainsborough Claiming Stakes. Although her form figures, four unplaced runs this season, at first glance fail to inspire confidence, there is another side to the story.

On her penultimate start she was a creditable runner on tenth to Lap Of Luxury in a highly-competitive Newbury handicap, and last time ran well for a mile in the same furlong Cambridgehire at Newmarket.

John Hills, her trainer, has chosen to bring her back to a mile here and that, allied to

her taking a hefty drop in class, gives her a fine opportunity to register her first win of the year.

Mac The Knife, who is also taking on lesser opposition after running in the St. Leger, should prove to be the answer to the Swettenham Stakes while Gallant Hope, with the invaluable assistance of Lydia Pearce, can take the Mademoiselle Ladies Handicap.

At Leicester, Anlace could be the best bet on the card in

the Wreakie Fillies Stakes. She was third in a listed race in Italy last time and, with Luca Cumani's stable in good form, looks the type to show further improvement.

Lady Debra Darley has been in fine form this term but she must concede 8lb to Anlace, while the race which nothing out of the ordinary.

Robert Armstrong and Willie Carson, the team associated with Fawz, could have better luck with Gabr in the In the Reference Point Maiden Stakes.

The son of Green Desert made an encouraging debut at Newmarket earlier this month when second to Bara-thea. He raced prominently throughout and, given the likelihood of him improving for the outing, can be expected to make a bold show here.

Handsome Gent, who has been running in better company, can take the Whissendine Selling Stakes while League Leader, fifth in the highly-regarded Armiger at Newmarket on his debut, looks the key to the Soar Maiden Stakes.



Hills found fine chance for Scales of Justice

LEICESTER

MANDARIN	THUNDERER
2.10 League Leader.	2.10 League Leader.
2.40 Handsome Gent.	2.40 Handsome Gent.
3.10 Gabr.	3.10 Gabr.
3.40 Risk Proof.	3.40 Risk Proof.
4.10 Anlace.	4.10 Anlace.
4.40 Gold Blade.	4.40 Lord Oberon.

RICHARD EVANS: 4.10 Lady Debra Darley.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.10 ENF SOAR MAIDEN STAKES


(2-Y-O; 24.370; 1m 8yd) (16 runners)

1	10	ALBASTON (5) (P. Schmitt) 5-5	A. Moore	55
2	11	AZZELI (Pascy & Pinsky) 4-5	S. Gaudin	55
3	12	BARTON (5) 22 (L. J. H		

43

BBC2

6.00 **Cartoons** (19936) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (75145)
9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show (44400)
9.30 **Schools** (860145)
12.00 **Profiles of Nature**. Walter and Myrna Berlet's film of the great
sawatch cone (93363)
12.30 **Sesame Street** (85349) 1.30 **Take 5** (17058)
2.00 **Film: The Mating Season** (1951, b/w) starring Gene Tierney, Jo
Lund and Thelma Ritter. Comic social satire about a working-class
mother who arrives at the home of her upwardly mobile son and is
mistaken by his wealthy wife for a maid. Directed by Mitchell Leisen
(490703)
3.50 **Telstar's Alps: The Magic Flute**. A Mozart aria acted out
animated puppets (2721955)
4.00 **A Houseful of Plants**. This last in the series includes a visit to the
garden of Robert Irvine, owner of the Summer Isles Hotel on the
west coast of Scotland (r). (Teletext) (333)
4.30 **Fifteen to One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (435)
5.00 **Crawshaw Paints On Holiday**. Alwyn Crawshaw with painting by
from Palma, Majorca (1329)
5.30 **It Wishes We Were Horses**. The final programme of the series
following the fortunes of meek ability children as they learn to ride
(r) (s) (787)
6.00 **Remote Control**. Comedy quiz show (s) (400)
6.30 **Roseanne**. Wide-creaking blue-collar comedy series starring
Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (r). (Teletext) (752)
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext) Weather (493226)
7.50 **Commentary** (780349)
8.00 **The Forensic of Shakespeare**. Chris Kelly looks at the diversity
wildlife of the Seychelles. (Teletext) (7313)
8.30 **Check Out 92**. This week's edition of the consumer affairs
magazine looks into the high-tech world of charities (s) (8348)
9.00 **Without Walls**
CHOICE: Tonight's films look at the myth of Brigitte Bardot. We
ask whether Shakespeare was a homosexual. The Bardot story is
more conventional, a potted history of her career embellished
with approving feminist noises from the American writer Camilla
Paglia. Bardot may see herself as a victim of male manipulation but
Paglia argues that the star's potent sexuality was a weapon, not
weakness. The Shakespeare enquiry is conducted by the actor
Simon Callow, with the help of various professors of English
literature. Evidence of what these experts call homoerotic desire
tentatively found in passages from Othello and Coriolanus, in one
of the Sonnets and among the ambiguous cross-dressing of Twelfth
Night and As You Like It. Whether this adds up to evidence of
Shakespeare being gay, the viewer may doubt (2145)




Taking aim: Ian Hawkes plays ten-year-old Eddie (10.00pm)

10.00 **Film on Four: Queen of Hearts** (1950) starring Vittorio Duse and
Joseph Long. A story of love and revenge set through the eyes of
ten-year-old Eddie, who lives with three generations of his family
under one roof in London's Italian quarter. Directed by Ian

(13)

6.00 **Cartoons** (19936) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (75145)
9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. American game show (44400)
9.30 **Schools** (860145)
12.00 **Profiles of Nature**. Walter and Myrna Berlet's film of the great
sawatch cone (93363)
12.30 **Sesame Street** (85349) 1.30 **Take 5** (17058)
2.00 **Film: The Mating Season** (1951, b/w) starring Gene Tierney, Jo
Lund and Thelma Ritter. Comic social satire about a working-class
mother who arrives at the home of her upwardly mobile son and is
mistaken by his wealthy wife for a maid. Directed by Mitchell Leisen
(490703)
3.50 **Telstar's Alps: The Magic Flute**. A Mozart aria acted out
animated puppets (2721955)
4.00 **A Houseful of Plants**. This last in the series includes a visit to the
garden of Robert Irvine, owner of the Summer Isles Hotel on the
west coast of Scotland (r). (Teletext) (333)
4.30 **Fifteen to One**. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz (s) (435)
5.00 **Crawshaw Paints On Holiday**. Alwyn Crawshaw with painting by
from Palma, Majorca (1329)
5.30 **It Wishes We Were Horses**. The final programme of the series
following the fortunes of meek ability children as they learn to ride
(r) (s) (787)
6.00 **Remote Control**. Comedy quiz show (s) (400)
6.30 **Roseanne**. Wide-creaking blue-collar comedy series starring
Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman (r). (Teletext) (752)
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext) Weather (493226)
7.50 **Commentary** (780348)
8.00 **The Forensic of Shakespeare**. Chris Kelly looks at the diversity
wildlife of the Seychelles. (Teletext) (7313)
8.30 **Check Out 92**. This week's edition of the consumer affairs
magazine looks into the high-tech world of charities (s) (8348)
9.00 **Without Walls**
CHOICE: Tonight's films look at the myth of Brigitte Bardot. We
ask whether Shakespeare was a homosexual. The Bardot story is
more conventional, a potted history of her career embellished
with approving feminist noises from the American writer Camilla
Paglia. Bardot may see herself as a victim of male manipulation but
Paglia argues that the star's potent sexuality was a weapon, not
weakness. The Shakespeare enquiry is conducted by the actor
Simon Callow, with the help of various professors of English
literature. Evidence of what these experts call homoerotic desire
tentatively found in passages from Othello and Coriolanus, in one
of the Sonnets and among the ambiguous cross-dressing of Twelfth
Night and As You Like It. Whether this adds up to evidence of
Shakespeare being gay, the viewer may doubt (2145)




Taking aim: Ian Hawkes plays ten-year-old Eddie (10.00pm)

10.00 **Film on Four: Queen of Hearts** (1950) starring Vittorio Duse and
Joseph Long. A story of love and revenge set throughout the years
of ten-year-old Eddie, who lives with three generations of his family
under one roof in London's Italian quarter. Directed by Ian

20th century conflict and explores the
between officers and the men who served

1.50 VideoPlus+ and the VideoPlus Codes
The numbers next to each title programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video-recorder remote with a VideoPlus+ in hand. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video Plus Code for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0839 121 204 (calls charged at rate of 10p per minute, plus 10p per line) or write to VideoPlus+, Acorn Ltd, 5 Honey House, Hamman Way, London SW11 3TP. VideoPlus+™, PlusCode™ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

[illegible]



Help keep this fight going.

Our fight against organised cruelty.
Against training animals to become
killing machines.

Against gambling and money making
from the abuse of animals.

Against the men who consider these
atrocities 'sport'.

At the RSPCA we cannot get govern-
ment funded, so we rely entirely on
your generosity.

Please, join in this fight.

Please tick the box if you are already a supporter. ☐

Please use my donations to fight animal cruelty.


£100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐ I would prefer to give £

I wish to give via Visa/Access Card No:

Signature _____ Expiry Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____



For: The RSPCA, Dept DDTT, Freepost, Bristol BS3 3YJ. REG. CHARITY 219099

**Our fight against organised cruelty.
Against training animals to become
killing machines.
Against gambling and money making
from the abuse of animals.
Against the men who consider these
atrocities 'sport'.
At the RSPCA we are not govern-
ment funded, so we rely entirely on
your generosity.
Please, join in this fight.**

Please tick the box if you are already a supporter. ☐

Please send my donations to fight animal cruelty.


£100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £10 ☐ I would prefer to give £

I wish to give via
Visa/Access Card No:

Signature _____ Expiry Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____



To: RSPCA, Dept DDTT, Freepost, Bristol BS3 3YD. REG. CHARITY 219099

Home support only for Rangers and Leeds

Away supporters
banned from
European Cup tie

By JOHN GOODBODY

THERE will be a ban on away supporters for both legs of the European Cup second-round tie between Rangers and Leeds United at Ibrox on October 21 and Elland Road on November 4.

The tie has been given a "high risk" classification by Uefa, European football's governing body, which deems it potentially combustible because of violent outbreaks between English and Scottish supporters in the past.

However, Campbell Ogilvie, the Rangers secretary, denied that hooliganism had brought the decision. He said that, with Ibrox holding 42,000 and Elland Road 25,000, there would be a shortage of tickets for home supporters.

Ogilvie was speaking after officials of the clubs and police representatives had met in Glasgow. He said: "We are doing this with regret. There will be a lot of disappointed people. We hope both sets of supporters will understand that the decision was taken on its merits for this particular

match and the number of tickets available in the two stadiums.

"If we had given Leeds 2,000 tickets for the match here, we would have been depriving 2,000 of our followers the opportunity of seeing the game. Similarly, if Leeds had allowed us 2,000 tickets for Elland Road, 2,000 fewer of their supporters could have seen the game in England."

Although some supporters will certainly attempt to watch to both legs by buying tickets on the black market, the ban will restrict the number of visiting spectators, particularly since ITV seems certain to screen both legs live to most of the United Kingdom.

Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, doubted whether any ban on visiting supporters could work. "The fanatical supporters of Leeds and Glasgow will go anywhere to follow their team," he said. "They want to be part of the atmosphere." Last Friday, 2,693 Leeds supporters travelled to Barcelona for the hastily-arranged deciding

match with VfB Stuttgart in the first round.

Monica Hartland, the deputy chairman of the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs, said: "We welcome the decision, which is reasonable. There is short-term sadness for the supporters, particularly those Leeds followers who made the journey to Barcelona last Friday but in the long-term it is expedient."

"Our organisation firmly believes that, in principle, every ground must accommodate away supporters for every match. However, this is a unique case."

"There is no way we should endanger England's right to stage the European championship in 1996."

The Football Supporters' Association, however, was less happy. Its spokesman, David Lee, said: "It sets a precedent which Uefa may be very happy to follow in the future. And it could overlap into the domestic game where clubs could use a ban on away supporters to overcome the problem of reduced capacity as grounds are redeveloped."

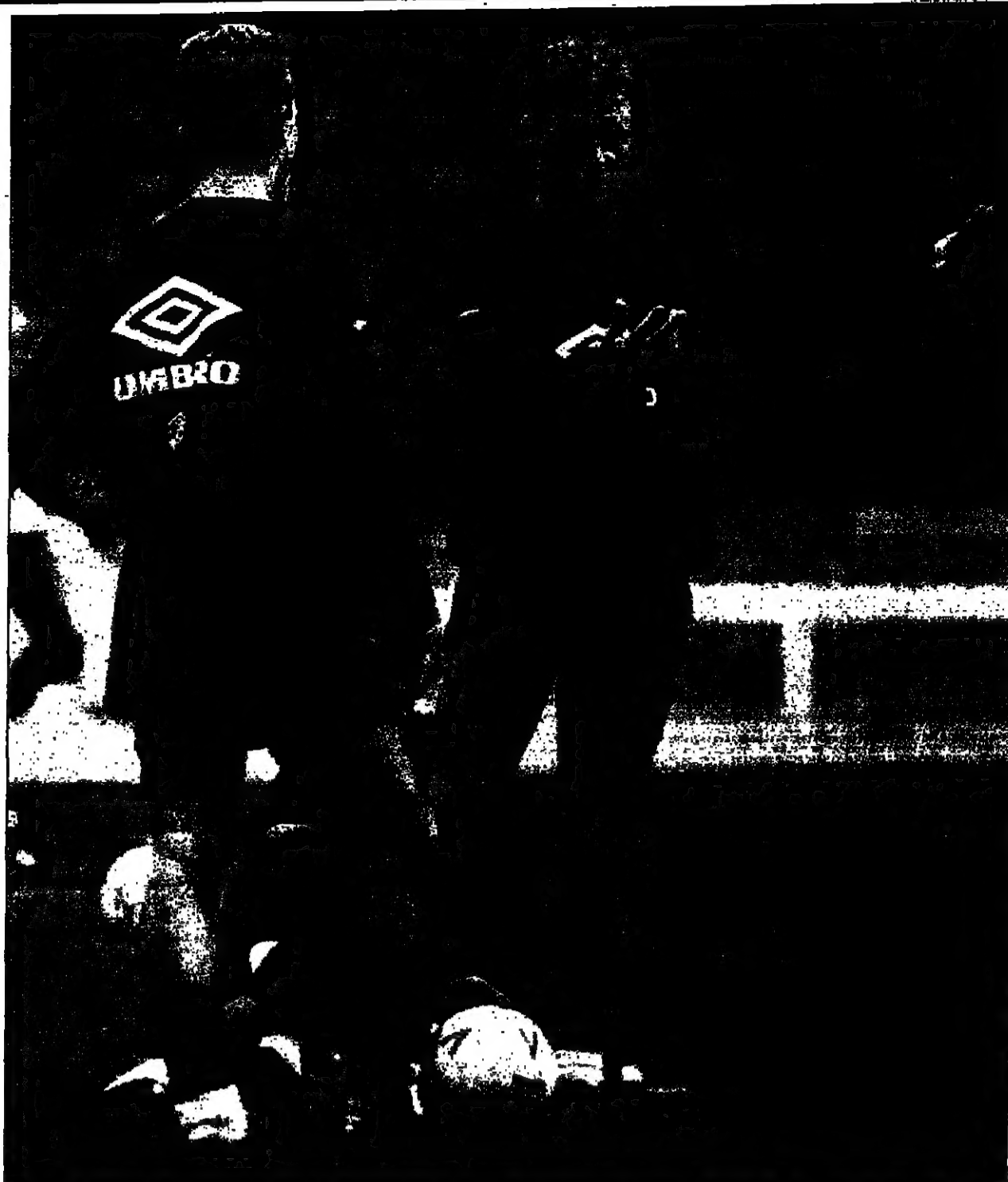
"We realise that for this match there will be a vast demand for tickets but we do not believe a ban is the correct solution as fans will still be tempted to travel."

Although Scottish supporters, unlike the English, have not become involved in any serious hooliganism at either the 1990 World Cup or the 1992 European championship, there have been troubles in the past when they have met the English. The government ordered the 1985 England v Scotland match at Wembley to be staged at Hampden Park but trouble continued and the 1989 fixture in Glasgow, marred by disturbances, has been the last between the two countries.

Neither the English nor the Scottish Football Association attended the meeting yesterday but both organisations communicated their views.

Leeds have had an unpleasant reputation. In May 1990, their followers became involved in the worst outbreak of hooliganism in Britain in the past three years, when thousands of their followers invaded Bournemouth to celebrate the second division championship game.

ITV is optimistic that the matches could bring in audiences of more than 12 million, although the first-leg tie will not be shown live in Scotland because Heart of Midlothian are at home to Standard Liege on the same night.



England's future in his hands: Gascoigne, right, discusses moves with Shearer at Wembley yesterday

Taylor seeks show of strength

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND enter the World Cup qualifying competition against Norway at Wembley tomorrow with a worryingly fragile side. No one can be sure about the reliability of the players who will be named today to fill the central roles in defence and in midfield.

A home defeat at the hands of the confident Norwegians, who have won all three of their group two matches, would be as calamitous as it would be unprecedented. But Graham Taylor's team is far from certain to be able to bear the weight of the nation's expectations, outlined by the England manager yesterday.

"We are looking forward to a fresh start," the England manager said. "If we have a good win, it will set the tempo for the World Cup campaign and people can forget about the disappointment of the European championship in the summer."

England, with only two wins in the last nine fixtures, are in need of a surge of

optimism and Taylor is aware of the consequences of failure. "Conversely, if the result is bad," he said, "you know as well as I do that the roof will come in."

Des Walker's defensive partner in the practice session at Wembley yesterday was Tony Adams. Although the Arsenal captain will not necessarily make his first appearance for 19 months, Taylor's other choices represent as much of a gamble. Richard Johnson, for whom he has high regard, has yet to make his debut.

Nurtured by Taylor at Watford, the 29-year-old from Oldham Athletic is part of the weakest defence in the Premier League. Gary Pallister, the alternative, is in the strongest, at Manchester United, but he is liable to commit a needless error in each game.

Adams' prolonged absence from the England side is an indication of his deficiency. His rugged style is suited to the demands of the domestic game and Taylor, significant-

ly, has so far chosen him only for the two European championship qualifying ties against the Republic of Ireland.

Since Sunday was not required for those fixtures, Paul Gascoigne was omitted from both. He has not represented England since, but Taylor can scarcely resist the public clamour for his inclusion in the starting line-up rather than as one of the five substitutes.

"There is no risk involved in putting him on the pitch," Taylor said. "But he is unlikely to be able to sustain 90 minutes. When you have a highly gifted individual like him, though, there is a case for saying that you should use him from the beginning."

Gascoigne concedes that he is not match-fit, but England are otherwise so bereft of enterprise in midfield that an abbreviated contribution would still be valuable and perhaps decisive.

However, the midfield will have to be re-designed to accommodate him. Paul Ince

and David Platt, neither of whom would tire of running from one penalty area to the other, will probably relieve Gascoigne of the need to expend too much energy in England's half.

With Lee Dixon and Stuart Pearce, an attacking wing promises to be a heavily populated midfield. David Batty may be given the responsibility of acting as the defensive anchor there. Naturally combative, he tends to concede free kicks and, considering the depth of his position, invariably in threatening areas.

The England front line is also an unknown quantity. Apart from appearing against New Zealand during last year's summer tour, Ian Wright has not led the attack for 17 months. His recall would complete the unpredictability in Taylor's line-up.

Norway appear to be ready for anything England may come up with, particularly after beating Holland in an earlier tie. "We expect England to play and to attack at a higher tempo than Holland, but we can handle this," Egil Olsen, the Norwegian coach, said yesterday.

Olsen chose Rune Bratseth, the central defender and captain, as his key player, although he has a slight doubt over a leg injury.

ENGLAND line-up: G. Wright, A. Adams, D. Walker, S. Pearce, P. Ince, D. Batty, P. Gascoigne, D. Platt, A. Shearer, I. Wright.

Sponsor
drives
bargain
deal

WHILE one pre-Wimbledon women's tennis event was assured of backing for at least another three years yesterday, the future of another was thrown into further confusion (Andrew Longmore writes).

Volkswagen, which already sponsors the Lawn Tennis Association's ratings system and next month's national championships at Telford, has extended its sponsorship to include the grass-court tournament at Eastbourne in the week before Wimbledon.

"VW will replace Pilkington Glass, which pulled out after this year's championship, won by Lori McNeil. Next year's tournament, from June 14 to 19, will have £220,000 in prize-money and has a field that is guaranteed to include three of the world's top ten players and one in the top three."

Although there was little doubt that one of the most traditional and popular events in the British calendar would survive, the news of the new sponsorship will certainly please Martina Navratilova, ten times champion at Devonshire Park.

In contrast, the LTA's chances of finding a sponsor for the Birmingham pre-Wimbledon tournament took a turn for the worse yesterday. This is because the European Open in Lucerne has not only changed its date from before the French Open to compete with what was the Dow Classic, but it will be played on artificial grass and not clay.

There is, however, a difference of opinion among the top players about the merits of an artificial grass surface. Steffi Graf, the Wimbledon champion, does not like it. "It is very dangerous," she said. "If you slip on it you can get burnt badly." Pam Shriver was more enthusiastic. "There have been some improvements in the surface and it might appeal to those who do not like the low bounce of Edgbaston."

Surrey to
consider
its actions

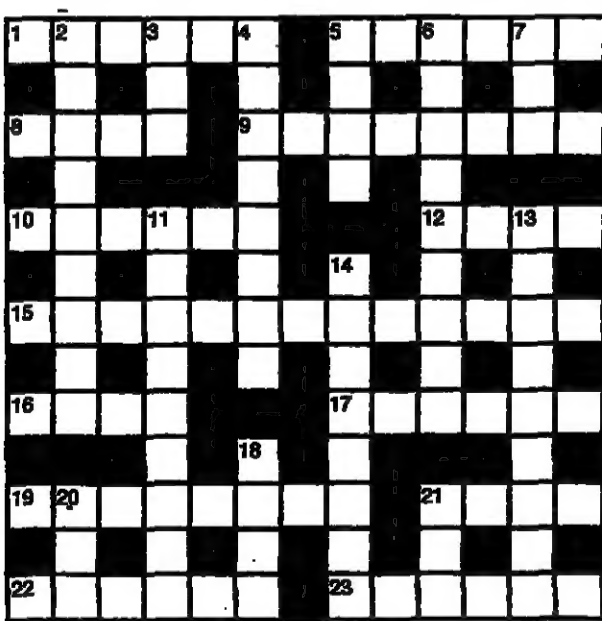
SO wide-ranging is Surrey's committee of enquiry report into offences of ball-tampering that the club is to spend a further week considering its recommendations (Ivo Tennant writes). It is not yet known whether punitive measures will extend to dismissals.

Surrey established the three-man committee following their suspended fine of £1,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). It is not recommending recommendations but the club said its conclusions "will bear on the players, staff and its organisation."

The committee spoke to Alec Stewart and Ian Greig, present and former captains, and the cricket committee chairman, Jimmy Pofford. It is understood they have not talked to Wagar Younis, their Pakistan bowler.

The committee's brief was to ascertain what the offences were and investigate charges.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2917



ACROSS

- 1 Injured party (6)
- 3 Trudges (6)
- 4 Male deer (4)
- 5 Spontaneous (8)
- 6 Small cupboard (6)
- 7 King's Lynn River (4)
- 8 Slanted window cover (8,5)
- 9 Leading man (4)
- 10 Dangerous (6)
- 11 Paper scraper (8)
- 12 Frame of mind (4)
- 13 Irritate (6)
- 14 Hoodwink (6)

DOWN

- 2 Brains (9)
- 3 Young sheep (3)
- 4 Huge pile (8)
- 5 London Underground (4)
- 6 Lion's slave friend (9)
- 7 Edgar Allan - , novelist (3)
- 8 Pioneer (9)
- 9 Coolness (8)
- 10 Questioned (8)
- 11 Unoccupied (4)
- 12 Garden weeder (3)
- 13 Inch thousandth (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2916

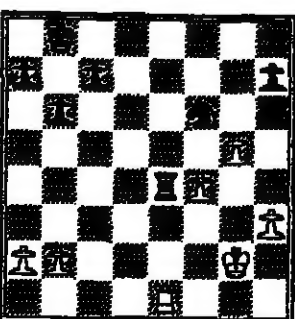
ACROSS: 1 Vacuum cleaner 8 Ducks 9 Nairobi 10 UNO 11 Otter 12 Pothole 14 Elated 16 Apper 20 Osmosis 23 Nappa 34 UHT 25 Dancer 26 Issue 27 Reinforcement
DOWN: 1 Video recorder 2 Cecilia 3 Upsurge 4 Canopy 5 Exist 6 No-one 7 Reimbursement 13 Hip 15 Two 17 Pantile 18 Epouse 19 Urrer 21 Menal 22 Sheaf

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Norway - Crouch, Lloyds Bank 1992. White is a piece down and if he is to get anything out of this game, he must use his kingside pawns very quickly. How can this best be accomplished?

Solution below.



Solution: White can win with 1. gxf3! fxe2 2. Rf1!! will force the promotion of the pawn! 2... f7 and 2... f8!! will

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts (runs on most PCs), telephone Akom Ltd on 081 882 4775 Mon-Fri after 4pm or weekends.

Denmark cannot afford another lapse

FROM CLIVE WHITE IN COPENHAGEN



Schmeichel: no illusions

COPENHAGEN is not looking forward to Denmark's World Cup qualifying tie tomorrow against the Republic of Ireland; at least, some Danish players do not appear to be.

Since maximising the opportunity afforded them by Yugoslavia's expulsion from the European championship finals in the summer, Denmark have suffered a reaction so extreme that it is felt by one of their number that if they do not win tomorrow, that will be another championship they have not qualified for as of

right. Who would have guessed back in those hazy, crazy days of last summer when Denmark exceeded all expectations, including probably their own, to lift the European championship, that they would trip up over the unlikely stumbling blocks of Latvia and Lithuania at the outset of their next campaign.

Those goalless draws, albeit away from home, have placed them at a huge disadvantage to qualify from group three, given the tough competition provided by Ireland, who head the group with maxi-

mum points from two games, and Spain.

Peter Schmeichel, the Denmark and Manchester United goalkeeper, is under no illusions about their task and, perhaps mindful of the away games to come against their two keenest rivals, said starkly: "If we don't win this game I can't see how we can qualify."

Roy Keane, the Nottingham Forest midfielder player, is being considered by Jack Charlton for the defensive midfield role, vacated by the injured Paul McGrath, in front of the Irish back four.

Scots may plug other sides' gaps

By ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND may be represented on both sides in the final of the Rugby World Cup Sevens next April if a new regulation covering replacement players is approved later this month.

Rugby World Cup (RWC), the administrative body that controls the sevens championship, is expected to approve a proposal that would allow teams that lose more than three of their ten-strong party to injury to draw on a pool of stand-bys from the hosts, Scotland. Thus, a Scot might find himself playing for, say Fiji, and indeed against Scotland.

Keith Rowlands, the secretary of both the International Board and RWC, said: "Normally the limit for major tournaments throughout the world is nine players per squad but we decided to increase this by one for the World Cup."

Having decided on a limit of ten players per country, RWC had to decide what to do if teams run out of players as a result of injuries. It was Rowlands' idea to provide a pool of Scottish players to be used as replacements by any national side that found itself depleted.

Any stand-by player called upon would remain with whichever team had picked

him for the remainder of the tournament.

Rowlands' reasoning is based on his observations of other leading sevens tournaments. The practice has been for teams to borrow players from other squads to make up their numbers. For example, John Jeffrey, then a Scotland international, appeared for a depleted Wales team in Hong Kong.

"It is this indiscriminate use of players by other countries that we want to avoid," Rowlands said. "We think it is better to control such situations by setting up a pool of reserve players." Charlie Bisset, the tournament manager, said: "We want everyone

to be on a level playing field."

The likelihood is that the Scottish Rugby Union would use those players selected for the initial squad of 27 who did not make the final ten.

Scotland players will also be invited to provide live opposition for the national sides in practice games before the start of the competition. If these become over-vigorous, Scots could then find themselves appearing in the early rounds of the World Cup.

Meanwhile, it would do Wales no harm if they kept in touch with Jeffrey. Although he will be the Scotland coach in the World Cup Sevens, might just be persuaded back into competitive rugby.

HOUSEHOLD
INSURANCE

FOR THE BEST
RATE FROM A
SELECTION OF 30
TOP INSURERS

0345 123111
ALL CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

Hill House Hammond
The House Insurance Specialists

Branches Throughout The UK